

# MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018

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"Remember, if Christmas isn't found in your heart, you won't find it under a tree."

— Charlotte Carpenter

## Conaway discusses shutdown, 'Obamacare' ruling

By Simone Jasper  
sjasper@mrt.com

With talk Tuesday of a partial federal government shutdown, U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway thinks the situation can go either way. The Midland Republican also considered the weight of a recent federal court ruling as the next congressional term comes on the horizon.

"The one wild card got handed to everybody last week when a federal judge nullified the Obamacare Act," Conaway said. "That means that the Democrats will have to deal with something that the president would sign and that would need to be bipartisan."

Conaway's discussion with the Reporter-

Telegram came after a federal judge ruled Friday that the Affordable Care Act was unconstitutional and can't stand on its own. The ruling was related to the individual mandate and doesn't currently impact U.S. health care coverage.

While Conaway hasn't had much time to discuss the ruling with others, he thinks the judge's decision will elevate the issue.

Also in the news this week was the potential for a government shutdown, which could leave thousands of federal workers without pay. The topic came up last week during a discussion between President Donald Trump and Sen. Minority Leader Charles Schumer, among other government leaders.

"Both of them are saying things,"

Conaway said about the meeting. "Can you really hold either one of them to the strict interpretation of what they're saying? There may be some New York City code going on there that's involved," he said referencing that both men are from New York.

The funding impasse revolved about \$5 billion in funding for a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border.

"This really was between Schumer and the president to work this out — if at all," Conaway said. "I still think it's a 50-50 chance that it doesn't happen. But I think whatever the president agrees to, we can pass in the House."

The White House on Tuesday said the administration has found other ways to get

border wall funding, but Democratic leaders were against that proposal. The deadline to come up with a solution is Friday.

For immigration reform, Conaway said there's opportunity for language to move away from a border wall and toward operational control of the border. He thinks people should be in favor of that concept, which relates to resources and infrastructure.

"Fencing or the wall in itself is not a panacea," Conaway said. "You still have to patrol the wall. You have to watch it to make sure people aren't trying to break through."

More information from Conaway's discussion will appear in a future Reporter-Telegram story.

## BIG SPRING BOTTLENECK



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Traffic backs up at the light at Big Spring Street and Loop 250 heading north Tuesday as construction north of the loop has closed one lane of the roadway.

## Lanes closed during Business 349 roadwork

From staff reports

Lanes are closed on North Big Spring Street and the Loop 250 service road as a rehabilitation project is underway at the intersection of Business Highway 349 and the loop.

The segment currently being worked on is scheduled for completion this week, according to Gene Powell, public information officer for the Odessa District of

the Texas Department of Transportation.

The roads should open up for the holidays, and work won't continue until after New Year's Day. January traffic control shouldn't go south of Loop 250, Powell wrote in an email.

The roadwork involves rebuilding more than three miles of Business 349 from the Loop to the Martin County line, according to a TxDOT press release. As part of the project, a traffic signal will

be installed at Mockingbird Lane and continuous two-way left turn lanes will be added.

The project is scheduled for completion in summer 2019.

The city of Midland contributed \$1.65 million to the project and helped with planning and development, according to the press release. Jones Brothers Dirt & Paving of Odessa won the contract with a bid of almost \$8.2 million.

## Exxon becomes top Permian driller to combat falling oil output

By Kevin Crowley  
Bloomberg

ExxonMobil Corp. has overtaken rivals to become the most active driller in the Permian Basin, showing the urgency with which the world's biggest oil company by market value is pursuing U.S. shale.

After a slow start in the West Texas and New Mexico basin, ExxonMobil is now operating more drilling rigs than Concho Resources Inc., which merged with RSP Permian Inc. earlier this year to create one of the biggest Permian-focused explorers, according to statistics from RIGData Inc. supplied to Bloomberg Intelligence.

It's not hard to see why the Permian has become so important to ExxonMobil. A series of strategic mistakes sent the oil giant's overall production careening to a 10-year low by the middle of this year. Drilling wells in the Permian, the world's premier shale field, yields low-cost oil in months rather than the years required for megaprojects to begin producing crude.

"They need to get the production and returns back up, and the Permian is where you can ramp up the fastest," said Fernando Valle, a New York-based analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence.

ExxonMobil isn't alone in tapping U.S. shale after years of pursuing overseas resources. Chevron Corp. will spend the highest portion of its capital budget at home in at least a decade. The Permian now accounts for about 10 percent of Chevron's overall production.

BP Plc this year agreed to spend \$10.5 billion on BHP Billiton Ltd.'s shale assets to gain access to the Permian while Royal Dutch Shell Plc is mulling a bid for one of the basin's largest private companies, people familiar with the matter said Monday.

For ExxonMobil, the Permian is still

## Oil down 40 percent since October

■ Price falls more than 7 percent to below \$47

Associated Press

NEW YORK — After two days of huge losses, U.S. stocks ended the day back where they started on Tuesday. Energy companies sank as crude oil plunged 7 percent, but technology and consumer-focused companies climbed.

U.S. crude oil fell to its lowest price since August 2017, and it has now fallen almost 40 percent since early October. Investors are worried that supplies continue to increase and that demand is slowing as the global economy weakens. The plunge in oil prices has crushed energy company stocks in recent

weeks.

Energy stocks including ExxonMobil fell again on Tuesday, but some of those losses were offset by gains in Apple, Amazon, Microsoft and Boeing. Boeing raised its quarterly dividend and said it will buy back another \$20

Please see OIL/2A

Please see COMBAT/2A

### Price of oil

\$46.24 ▼ \$3.64

### Did you know?

A federal regulation banning gun bump stocks has been ordered by the Trump administration. Page 4A

### The big number

Apollo 8's mission to the moon 50 years ago was the first manned flight to the moon, which it orbited. Page 4A

### Word of the Day:

carol  
Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 3A

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## CRIMEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

### Man arrested on aggravated assault, evading charges

A Houston man was arrested Saturday after he allegedly drove a vehicle toward a Midland police officer, according to court documents.



Avila

Anthony Avila, 22, was released Tuesday on a \$75,000 bond for a first-degree felony charge of aggravated assault against a public servant and a \$10,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

A police officer was working off duty at about 10 a.m. Saturday when he was notified that a vehicle hit another vehicle in a North Loop 250 parking lot.

The officer approached a vehicle that may have been involved and yelled "Midland police," according to court documents. At that time, the vehicle's driver — later identified as Avila — allegedly maneuvered toward the officer and accelerated.

The officer was in fear of being struck, stepped to the side and drew his weapon at the vehicle, according to Avila's arrest affidavit. Avila allegedly started to evade the officer, who pursued the vehicle on foot. The vehicle later accelerated on the Loop 250 service road and was found at another location, according to the affidavit.

If convicted, Avila could face up to life imprisonment for the first-degree felony charge and up to 10 years imprisonment for the third-degree felony charge.

### Man charged with aggravated assault

A Midland man was arrested Saturday after he allegedly pointed a rifle at a female, according to court documents.



Caston

Clay Caston Jr., 75, was released Sunday on a \$75,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

A Midland County sheriff's deputy was dispatched at about 3 p.m. Saturday in reference to a disturbance.

Caston was arguing with a female at a residence when he walked to a room where weapons were kept, according to his arrest affidavit. He allegedly loaded a rifle and pointed it at the female.

Caston allegedly admitted to owning a weapon matching the given description and said it hadn't been at the residence for about one week. A deputy didn't find the weapon but found in Caston's pocket four rounds consistent with rifle rounds, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the second-degree felony charge, Caston could face up to 20 years imprisonment.

### Man allegedly sexually assaults teen

A man was arrested Dec. 10 after allegedly sexually assaulting a teenager, according to court documents.



Guzman-Pecina

Ramiro Estaban Guzman-Pecina, 30, was being held Tuesday on a \$150,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of sexual assault.

Midland County deputies were dispatched Dec. 10 to Midland Freshman High School in reference to a sexual assault.

A school's counselor told deputies a student had disclosed sexual abuse, according to Guzman-Pecina's affidavit.

The teen was transported to the Child Advocacy Center where she was interviewed.

If convicted of a second-degree felony charge, Guzman-Pecina could face up to 20 years imprisonment.

## City: Train hits truck stuck at crossing

From staff reports

A semi-truck was hit by a train Tuesday afternoon at the Warehouse Road crossing, according to the city's spokeswoman.

The driver was attempting to cross the tracks at Warehouse Road heading north and "became stuck," Elana Ladd said in an email. The driver called

911 and got out of the truck before the vehicle was hit by an oncoming train. No one was injured, she said.

The incident, which is under investigation, occurred shortly before 2:30 p.m. The railroad crossings at Warehouse Road and Eisenhower Drive were closed at least until Tuesday evening, she said.

## COMBAT

From 1A

small when placed in the context of its global reach. In the third quarter of this year it produced just a fraction of the oil titan's total production. But CEO Darren Woods expects strong growth each year through 2025. By then, he's targeting as much as 800,000 barrels a day from the Permian and the Bakken in North Dakota, which would be about 20 percent of today's overall production.

MobilExxon's escalation in the Permian is essential-

ly a bet that ExxonMobil can drill wells so cheaply that they'll be profitable despite crude's 37 percent decline since early October. The company says its shale wells can make double-digit returns with oil at just \$35 a barrel. West Texas Intermediate traded at \$48.55 a barrel at 9:54 a.m. Tuesday.

"The business we build in the Permian, we're building for the long term," Woods said in a Bloomberg TV interview last month. "It needs to be efficient, low cost and effective."

## Oil

From 1A

billion of its own stock. Boeing has tumbled on worries that the global trade war will hit its profits particularly hard.

The Federal Reserve started its last meeting of the year. Investors expect it to raise interest rates on Wednesday when the meeting concludes. That would be its fourth increase this year, and its ninth in three years. Investors are hoping the Fed will say the increases are going to slow down in 2019 in light of recent signs that economic

growth is slowing. Trading was turbulent. Two days of widespread market declines had knocked 1,004 points off the Dow Jones Industrial Average, and on Tuesday, investors couldn't find a convincing reason for stock prices to go higher. On the other hand they didn't see cause for another big decline, either. Benchmark U.S. crude plunged 7.3 percent to \$46.24 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, sank 5.6 percent to \$56.26 a barrel in London.



MRT file photo

U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke speaks at a town hall event Aug. 30 at the Grand Texan Hotel Convention Center in Midland. If the deep field of potential Democratic presidential contenders is on pins and needles as Beto O'Rourke decides his next move, it could be a long wait.

## O'Rourke says he doesn't have timeline for decision on 2020

By Will Weissert  
Associated Press

AUSTIN — If the deep field of potential Democratic presidential contenders is on pins and needles as Beto O'Rourke decides his next move, it could be a long wait.

The outgoing Texas congressman's team says he has no timeline or roadmap for deciding if he'd like to parlay a surprisingly close loss to Republican Sen. Ted Cruz into a White House try. People close to O'Rourke insist he hasn't expanded staff or lined up consultants even as the interest in him intensifies. They say he's spoken to top Democratic donors, but describe such discussions as fact-finding missions, researching the logistics of a possible run rather than securing assurances that coming campaign cash would go to him and not others.

The only big date on his calendar is Jan. 3, when he finishes his congressional term.

"There's a lot of people waiting to see what he does," said Texas Democratic strategist Colin Strother. "And a lot of them are going to continue to wait."

O'Rourke's approach is different from many of the other Democrats eyeing White House bids. Julian Castro, a fellow Texan and former Obama administration housing chief, launched a presidential exploratory committee ahead of a more formal campaign kickoff that's expected on Jan. 12. Others, including Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Kamala Harris of California and Cory Booker of New Jersey, have taken aggressive steps to lay the groundwork for potential campaigns that could be announced in the coming weeks.

But O'Rourke's backers say taking his time only makes him a more enticing presidential candidate, arguing that it's part of an unorthodox appeal that helped him come within

three percentage points of upsetting Cruz in Texas, where no Democrat has won statewide office in a generation. They say that O'Rourke's charisma, as well as the \$80-plus million from donors nationwide he racked up while running for Senate — he has about \$500,000 left — ensures he could jump into the 2020 race late and still come out ahead.

Nate Lerner, a Democratic activist who is part of a "Draft Beto 2020" online group seeking to raise \$1 million for an O'Rourke presidential run, said the congressman's Senate campaign was large enough that it could shift relatively seamlessly to a national organization and that many Democrats will be ready if and when that happens.

"There are a lot of people who are waiting to pick a horse," Lerner said.

For now, O'Rourke and his team remain in Washington, where they've had to surrender their congressional office since he gave up his seat to challenge Cruz. They're working from a basement cubicle in the Rayburn House Office Building, frequently talking a variety of topics with the congressman over lunch.

Prominent Democrats, notable donors to his Senate campaign and others are offering advice. The Rev. Al Sharpton along with current and former members of the House and Senate leave messages about 2020 on O'Rourke's cell phone, and he spends a lot of time returning calls. O'Rourke also has spoken with Barack Obama, while alumni from the former president's campaigns have formed online groups backing a would-be White House bid. O'Rourke also hasn't accepted — nor declined — invitations to visit Democrats in Iowa and New Hampshire, which kick off presidential primary voting.

A pivotal factor for O'Rourke is if he wants to again be away from his wife and three kids so much after seeing so little

of them while running for the Senate. His wife, Amy, is one of the key people helping him mull over his next move, similar to how she was a top Senate campaign adviser, often included on email chains weighing new ideas and strategy.

"They're constantly talking," said Illiana Noemi Holguin, chairwoman of the El Paso County Democratic Party. "Amy's going to have a big, big voice."

O'Rourke himself has told reporters it's "crazy" that 2020 talk has heated up so early and said whether he can turn a Senate loss into a serious presidential run remains "a great question."

Meanwhile, the camp of 76-year-old former Vice President Joe Biden has floated the idea of asking a younger candidate to join forces as a possible 2020 vice presidential running mate and O'Rourke's name has been mentioned. The 46-year-old congressman hasn't dismissed the idea, saying only that he hasn't spoken to Biden.

There are risks for O'Rourke waiting too long. A key factor in his transformation from a virtual unknown outside his hometown of El Paso to a national political sensation was that O'Rourke announced his Senate bid early, more than 18 months before Election Day. Holding off could also put him behind other would-be candidates.

The longer he stays on the sidelines, the more time a possible backlash has to gather — especially after months of glowing Senate campaign media coverage.

For starters, O'Rourke's legislative record is light. In his six years in Congress, he was the primary sponsor of just three bills that became law. One directed the U.S. Armed Forces to temporarily expand college tuition assistance, another sought to speed the appeals of veterans denied federal disability compensation. The third renamed El Paso's federal building and courthouse.

## Royal Dutch Shell is in negotiations to buy Endeavor

■ Deal could be \$8 billion for Midland-based company

By Kiel Porter  
and Dinesh Nair  
Bloomberg

Royal Dutch Shell Plc is in negotiations to buy Endeavor Energy Resources LP for about \$8 billion, according to people familiar with the matter, or roughly half as much as the Texas oil producer was expected to fetch when it put itself on the block this year.

ExxonMobil Corp., Chevron Corp. and ConocoPhillips also weighed bids for Endeavor but their interest has waned, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the matter isn't public.

Discussions with Shell haven't reached an advanced stage, one person said. They've also been complicated by Endeavor founder Autry Stephens's desire to retain a large quantity of its mineral rights, this person said, or ownership of untapped oil entitling him to royalties when drilled.

That's made the Midland-based company less valuable than the \$15 billion it was initially expected to fetch in a sale, the people said.

No deal has been reached and Endeavor could opt to remain independent, the people said. Endeavor is also considering going public in 2019, people familiar with the matter said in November.

"Portfolio review is an ongoing process to ensure we have the right mix of assets to deliver maximum value to our shareholders while delivering on our business strategy," a representative for Shell said in an email. "We do not, however, comment on current or potential commercial actions or agreements."

Representatives for Endeavor, Exxon, Chevron and Conoco declined to comment.

Endeavor controls drilling rights on more than 300,000 acres of mostly undeveloped land in the Permian Basin, making it one of the largest privately held companies in the most productive oilfield in the U.S.

Stephens, a billionaire who starred in a reality show, founded the entity that became Endeavor in 1979 after stints with Humble Oil, now part of Exxon, and the Army Corps of Engineers, according to Endeavor's website. He and his family own the company.

Shell has been selling assets around the world to pay down debt after buying BG Group Plc for about \$50 billion in 2016. The Hague, Netherlands-based company has about 260,000 acres in the Permian through a joint venture there with Anadarko Petroleum Corp., according to its website.

## STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

### SAN MARCOS Deaths of 5 in apartment fire ruled homicides

The deaths of five people killed in a large apartment fire near Texas State University have been ruled homicides.

The fire broke out on July 20 at an apartment complex in San Marcos. The fire has been ruled an arson, though no arrests have been made and few details have been released about how the blaze started.

Investigators say four of the people killed were current or former students at Texas State. They ranged in age from 19 to 23.

### GALVESTON County official wants resignations after \$525K scam

The top elected official in a South Texas county is calling for the resignation of two officials for failing to protect the county from an electronic payment scam that cost it more than \$525,000.

An outside review determined that no individual Galveston County employee was to blame for the loss of money. But Galveston County Judge Mark Henry said Monday that auditor Randall Rice and purchasing agent Rufus Crowder should be held responsible.

Get ready for the weekend by reading

WEEKENDER

today in the Reporter-Telegram

## First Christian Church

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## NASA's 1st flight to moon, Apollo 8, marks 50th anniversary

By Marcia Dunn  
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Fifty years ago on Christmas Eve, a tumultuous year of assassinations, riots and war drew to a close in heroic and hopeful fashion with the three Apollo 8 astronauts reading from the Book of Genesis on live TV as they orbited the moon.

To this day, that 1968 mission is considered to be NASA's boldest and perhaps most dangerous undertaking. That first voyage by humans to another world set the stage for the still grander Apollo 11 moon landing seven months later.

There was unprecedented and unfathomable risk to putting three men atop a monstrous new rocket for the first time and sending them all the way to the moon. The mission was whipped together in just four months in order to reach the moon by year's end, before the Soviet Union.

There was the Old Testament reading by commander Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders.

Lastly, there was the photo named "Earthrise," showing our blue and white ball — humanity's home — rising above the bleak, gray lunar landscape and 240,000 miles in the distance.

Humans had never set eyes on the far side of the moon, or on our planet as a cosmic oasis, surrounded completely by the black void of space. A half-century later, only 24 U.S. astronauts who flew to the moon have witnessed these wondrous sights in person.

The Apollo 8 crew is still around: Borman and Lovell are 90, Anders is 85.

To Lovell, the journey had the thrill and romance of true exploration, and provided an uplifting cap for Americans to a painful, contentious year marked by the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, nationwide riots and protests of the Vietnam War.

The mission's impact was perhaps best summed up in a four-word telegram received by Borman. "Thanks, you saved 1968."

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine — who at age 43 missed Apollo — marvels over the gutsy decision in August that year to launch astronauts to the moon in four months' time. He's pushing for a return to the moon, but with real sustainability this next go-around.

The space agency flipped missions and decided that instead of orbiting Earth, Borman and his crew would fly to the moon to beat the Soviets and pave the way for the lunar landings to come. And that was despite on its previous test flight, the Saturn V rocket lost parts and engines failed.

"Even more worrisome than all of this," Bridenstine noted earlier this month, Apollo 8 would be in orbit around the moon on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. "In other words, if there was a failure here, it would wreck Christmas not only for everybody in the United States, but for everybody in the world."

As that first moon shot neared, Borman's wife, Susan, demanded to know the crew's chances. A NASA director answered: 50-50.

Borman wanted to get to the moon and get back fast. In his mind, a single lap around the moon would suffice. His bosses insisted on more.

"My main concern in this whole flight was to get there ahead of the Russians and get home. That was a significant achievement in my eyes," Borman explained at the Chicago launch of the book "Rocket Men" last spring. Everyone eventually agreed: Ten orbits it would be.

Liftoff of the Saturn V occurred on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 21, 1968.

On Christmas Eve, the spaceship successfully slipped into orbit around the moon. Before bedtime, the first envoys to another world took turns reading the first 10 verses from Genesis. It had been left to Borman, before the flight, to find "something appropriate" to say for what was expected to be the biggest broadcast audience to date.

"We all tried for quite a while to figure out something, and it all came up trite or foolish," Borman recalled. Finally, the wife of a friend of a friend came up with the idea of Genesis.

"In the beginning," Anders read, "God created the heaven and the Earth."

Borman ended the broadcast with, "And from the crew of Apollo 8, we close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you — all of you on the good Earth."

On Christmas morning, their spacecraft went around the moon for the final time. The engine firing needed to shoot them back to Earth occurred while the capsule was out of communication with Mission Control in Houston. Lovell broke the nervous silence as the ship reappeared. "Please be informed there is a Santa Claus."

Back in Houston, meanwhile, a limousine driver knocked on Marilyn Lovell's door and handed her a gift-wrapped mink stole with a card that read: "To Marilyn, Merry Christmas from the man in the moon." Lovell bought the coat for his wife and arranged its fancy delivery before liftoff.

Splashdown occurred in the pre-dawn darkness on Dec. 27, bringing the incredible six-day journey to a close. Time magazine named the three astronauts "Men of the Year."

It wasn't until after the astronauts were back that the significance of their Earth pictures sank in.

Anders snapped the iconic Earthrise photo during the crew's fourth orbit of the moon, frantically switching from black-and-white to color film to capture the planet's exquisite, fragile beauty.

"Oh my God, look at that picture over there!" Anders said. "There's the Earth coming up. Wow, is that pretty!"

Before the flight, no one had thought about photographing Earth, according to Anders. The astronauts were under orders to get pictures for potential lunar landing sites while orbiting 70 miles above the moon.

"We came to explore the moon and what we discovered was the Earth," Anders is fond of saying.

His Earthrise photo is a pillar of today's environmental movement. It remains a legacy of Apollo and humanity's achievement, said professor emeritus John Logsdon of George Washington University's Space Policy Institute, forever underscoring the absence of political borders as seen from space.

Anders wondered then — and now — "This is not a very big place, why can't we get along?"

Lovell remains awestruck by the fact he could hide all of Earth behind his thumb.

"Over 3 billion people, mountains, oceans, deserts, everything I ever knew was behind my thumb," he recalled at a recent anniversary celebration at Washington's National Cathedral.

Astronaut-artist Nicole Stott said the golden anniversary provides an opportunity to reintroduce the world to Earthrise. She and three other former space travelers are holding a celebration at NASA's Kennedy Space Center on Friday, 50 years to the day Apollo 8 launched.

"That one image, I think, it just gives us the who and where we are in the universe so beautifully," she said.

By July 1969, Apollo 8 was overshadowed by Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin moon landing. But without Apollo 8, noted George Washington's Logsdon, NASA likely would not have met President John F. Kennedy's deadline of putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

## Social media battles misinformation

By Barbara Ortutay  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's a high-stakes game of whack-a-mole with no end in sight.

Social media companies are fighting an expensive and increasingly complex battle against Russian trolls who are using catchy memes, bots and fake accounts to influence elections and sow discord in the U.S. and beyond.

This week, two reports released by the Senate Intelligence Committee gave strong evidence that Moscow's sweeping online disinformation campaign was more far-reaching than originally thought, with agents working to divide Americans by race, religion and ideology and erode trust in U.S. institutions.

It is also clear that the culprits are learning from one another and quickly adapting to sophisticated countermeasures taken against them.

Here are some questions and answers about the efforts to combat misinformation.

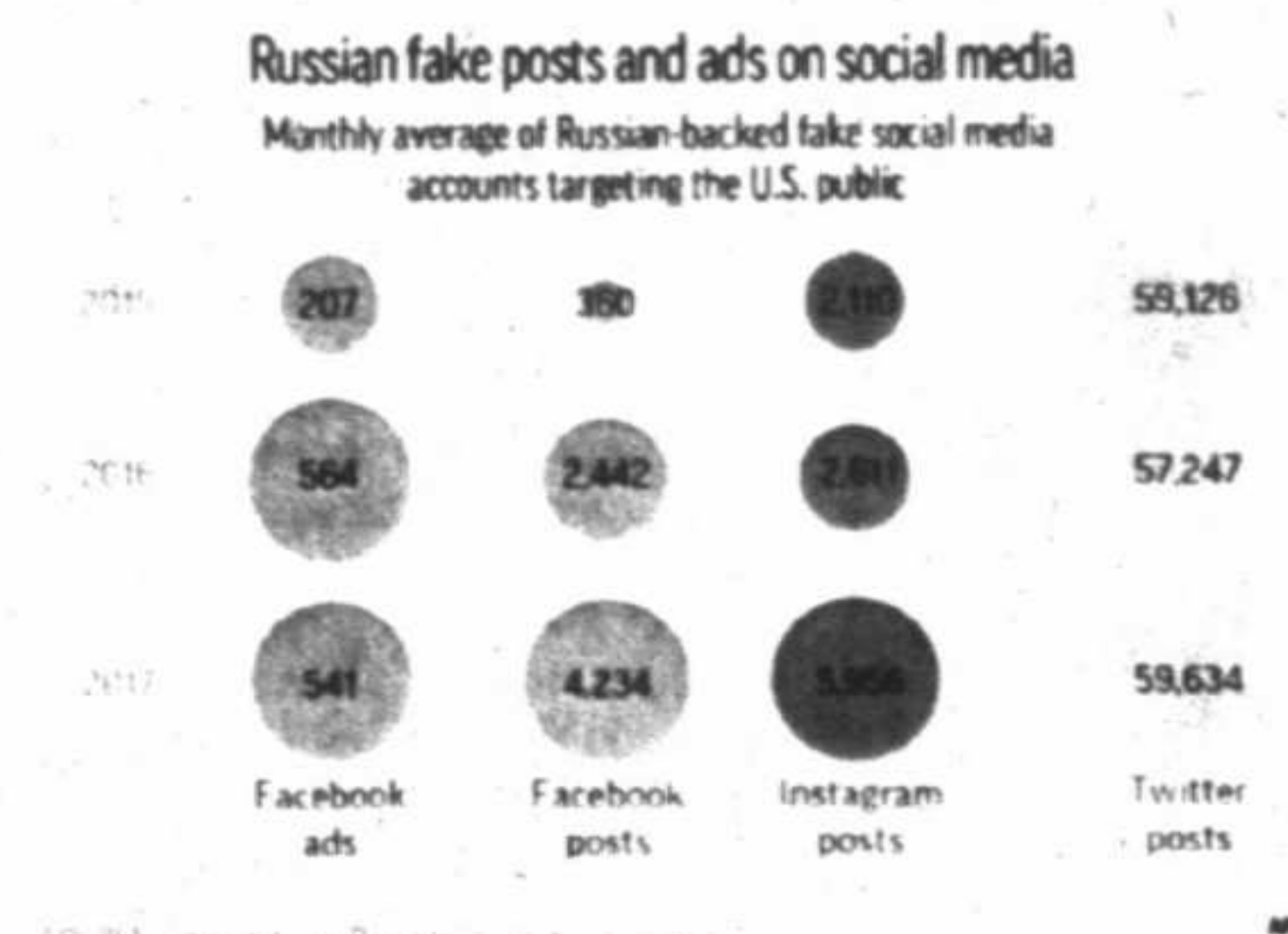
### What are the trolls doing?

When it comes to election meddling, much of the focus for the past two years has been on the biggest internet platforms, especially Facebook, where agents in Russia (as well as Iran and elsewhere) have used phony accounts to spread fake news and divisive messages.

But the latest reports offer more proof that the Russians went beyond the social media giant, taking advantage of smaller services like Pinterest, Reddit, music apps and even the mobile game Pokemon Go. Instagram, Facebook's photo-sharing app, was also found to have played a far bigger role than previously understood.

In many ways, the Russian operation works like a corporate branding campaign, except in this case, the goal is not to sell running shoes but to sway elections. On Facebook, agents might post links to fake news articles, or slogans pitting immigrants against veterans or liberals against conservatives.

One image showed a ragged, bearded man in a



U.S. Navy cap. It urged people to like and share "if you think our veterans must get benefits before refugees." Another post had a photograph of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and the words "Enough dreaming, wake your ass up."

On Instagram, the post with the most interactions was a photo showing a row of women's bare legs, ranging from pale white to dark brown, with the caption "All the tones are nude! Get over it!" The image had over a quarter-million likes.

Many of the posts and memes were not incendiary and didn't contain anything that could get them promptly banned from social networks for violating their standards against hate speech or nudity, for example. Instead, they looked like the ordinary sorts of things regular people might share on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

### What are the companies doing?

Caught off guard by Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. elections, giants like Facebook, Google and Twitter have thrown millions of dollars, tens of thousands of people and what they say are their best technical efforts into fighting fake news, propaganda and hate.

They are using artificial intelligence to root out fake accounts or to identify bots that post divisive content. For example, while a human might post at random moments and needs sleep, a bot may give itself away by tweeting at all hours of the day, at fixed times, such as on the hour.

Of course, malicious actors are learning to sidestep these countermeasures. Bots are being designed

to act more like humans and stop sending tweets out at fixed intervals. Or users who are operating fake accounts change their identities rapidly and delete their tweets to cover their tracks.

Some companies have made progress. Facebook's efforts, for example, appear to have reduced trafficking in fake news on its platform since the 2016 election.

But some of these efforts go against these companies' business interests, at least in the short term. In July, for example, Facebook announced that heavy spending on security and content control, coupled with other business shifts, would hold down growth and profits. Investors reacted by knocking \$119 billion off the company's market value.

Smaller platforms have fewer resources to throw at the problem, and that is one reason the trolls have moved on to them.

### Why aren't the companies doing more?

Created to sign up as many users as possible and have them posting, liking and commenting as often as possible, social networks are, by design, easy to flood with information. And bad information, if it's catchy, can spread faster than a boring but true news story.

Companies like Facebook and its competitors have also built their business on letting advertisers target users based on their interests, where they live and a multitude of other categories. Trolls sponsored by malicious governments can do the same thing, buying ads that automatically target people according to their

political leanings, ethnicity or whether they live in a swing state, for example.

Some companies have taken countermeasures against that. But critics say that unless companies like Facebook change their ad-supported business models, the exploitation is not going to stop.

Filippo Menczer, a professor of informatics and computer science at Indiana University, said the problem is a very difficult one to solve.

Facebook, for example, has focused a lot of its efforts on working with outside fact-checkers to root out fake news and suppress the spread of information that has been deemed false. But those items are only a part of the problem. Fact-checking doesn't necessarily screen out memes and other more subtle means of shaping people's opinions.

"A lot of the stuff is not necessarily false, but misleading or opinion," Menczer said.

### When will this end?

According to one of the Senate-released reports, 2016 and 2017 saw "significant efforts" to disrupt elections around the world.

"We cannot wait for national courts to address the technicalities of infractions after running an election or referendum," the Oxford researchers warned. "Protecting our democracies now means setting the rules of fair play before voting day, not after."

There are also new threats, already seen in countries such as Myanmar and Sri Lanka, where messaging apps like Facebook's WhatsApp have been instrumental in spreading misinformation and leading to violence. With these apps, the messages are private, and even the platforms themselves can't get access to them as they try to combat those trying to spread havoc, Menczer said.

Menczer said the cost of getting into the misinformation game is low. The entire campaign by Russia, he said, might have involved a few dozen employees and an advertising budget in the tens of thousands of dollars.

"Clearly, they will continue," he said. "There is no reason why they wouldn't."

## Saudi spending to hit high as oil prices resume slide

By Abdullah al-Shihri  
and Aya Batrawy  
Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia's expenditures will hit a record-high in 2019, with plans to increase state spending by 7 percent to reach \$295 billion, even as declining oil prices have forced the kingdom to adopt austerity measures.

King Salman announced the figures on Tuesday, saying the government expects revenue to increase by more than 9 percent to hit \$260 billion. That leaves a projected deficit of \$35 billion — less than previous years.

Total revenue in 2018 reached \$239 billion, with expenditures of \$274.5 billion.

"This budget is a continuation of the government's policy of focusing on fundamental citizen services and the development of government services," the king said at a government meeting that included ministers and his son, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Saudi Arabia has been grappling with a deficit since oil prices first plunged in 2014. It needs oil at around \$70 a barrel to balance its budget, but the price of oil continued to tumble after hitting a 14-month low on Monday. Benchmark U.S. crude dropped to a little more than \$49 per barrel Tuesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, dipped to \$58.70 per barrel.

As one of the world's largest oil exporters, the Saudi government is working to diversify its revenue. Non-oil revenue has increased in recent years, but the state continues to rely heavily on oil for its domestic and international spending.

The Finance Ministry said oil revenues are expected to reach \$176.5 billion in 2019 — about 68 percent of state revenue — compared to \$162 billion in 2018.

Capital Economics said this year's Saudi budget seems to be relying on optimistic assumptions for oil prices to rise to almost \$80 per barrel.

The annual Saudi budget is watched closely because it offers one of the clearest indicators of whether



AP file photo

Children play by snow March 9 at the "Snow City" in the Othaim Mall, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. King Salman has extended monthly allowances for government employees, military personnel, pensioners, social security recipients and students into next year. The announcement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency on Tuesday, comes on the same day the kingdom's 2019 budget is scheduled to be unveiled.

the kingdom is on track with its Vision 2030 plans — a blueprint put forth by the crown prince to wean the kingdom off its reliance on oil, particularly as sustainable sources of energy become cheaper and more popular.

The killing of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi, who'd written critically of the crown prince in The Washington Post, has called into question Prince Mohammed's ability to attract foreign investors to help underwrite his plans. Khashoggi was killed and dismembered inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul by agents close to the crown prince.

A report by U.S. intelligence firm Stratfor said that if growth only comes from heavy state spending, rather than private sector activity or higher levels of consumption, Saudi Arabia's plans to diversify the economy have little chance of success in the near term.

Saudi Arabia only succeeded in attracting \$1.4 billion in 2017, a figure that Stratfor said trails a number of poorer countries in the Middle East.

"Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's ever-shifting reputation is a direct driver of this uncertainty, and questions about the rule of law, secu-

rity of investments and the stability of the government abound," Stratfor said.

Investors were also rattled last year when the crown prince oversaw the arrest of top princes, officials and businessmen in a wide-reaching anti-corruption campaign shrouded in secrecy. The sweep netted more than \$106 billion in financial settlements.

Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan said Tuesday the state has collected \$13.3 billion from those settlements.

This year's budget includes a yearlong extension of monthly allowances for civil servants, pensioners and soldiers aimed at buffering the impact of austerity measures. The royal decree extends a monthly payout of around \$266 for civil servants and soldiers for another year. Retirees and students will also receive continued allowances.

Figures from 2018 reveal the allowances cost \$13.5 billion.

The extension of these bonuses comes at a sensitive time, when many Saudi citizens are feeling the pinch of austerity measures introduced in recent years to shore up state revenue.



## Economy is a potential storm cloud

By Jonathan Lemire  
and Catherine Lucey  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Forget Robert Mueller.

The greatest threat to President Donald Trump's re-election bid may not be the slew of investigations closing in on his Oval Office but a possible economic slowdown. And the president knows it.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell again Monday, the latest dip in the roller coaster markets amid the strain of Trump's trade war, rising interest rates and worries about a slowing global economy.

Trump, who has tied his political fortunes to the stock market in an unprecedented fashion, has nervously watched Wall Street, keeping an eye on the cable television ticker and barking at his aides for updates. And while he continues to talk up America's financial might, he has repeatedly and publicly rebuked the

chairman of the Federal Reserve for interest rate increases he feels could slow the economy.

Trump made his feelings clear again Tuesday, a day before the Fed is expected to raise its key interest rate for the fourth time this year.

"I hope the people over at the Fed will read today's Wall Street Journal Editorial before they make yet another mistake. Also, don't let the market become any more illiquid than it already is. Stop with the 50 B's. Feel the market, don't just go by meaningless numbers. Good luck!"

He said Monday on Twitter that "It is incredible that with a very strong dollar and virtually no inflation, the outside world blowing up around us, Paris is burning and China way down, the Fed is even considering yet another interest rate hike. Take the Victory!"

Throughout Trump's term, the economy has been strong. And while the

president credits his aggressive tax-cut package and deregulation efforts, the gains in fact began under President Barack Obama.

Optimism about the economy has cooled somewhat this fall as Trump's trade fight with China rattled the markets.

Fond of citing job statistics and market reports, Trump has appeared highly attuned to the shift. After unnerving much of the global financial system by imposing tariffs, Trump seemed eager to ease anxiety recently, striking a trade truce with China after a dinner meeting during an international summit in Argentina. And when that move only briefly buoyed confidence, Trump set off on an erratic bout of tweeting that rocked the markets even more.

First Trump declared himself a "Tariff Man," promising to inflict as much economic pain as possible — a move that horrified investors. A day

later he sought to minimize the anxieties, saying there were "very strong signals" that China was negotiating in good faith.

"Not to sound naive or anything, but I believe President Xi meant every word of what he said at our long and hopefully historic meeting," Trump tweeted.

Stocks fell again Monday as both the Dow and the S&P 500 are on pace for their worst December performance since 1931, when they were battered during the Great Depression. As investors turned to an upcoming meeting of the Federal Reserve, its chairman, Jerome Powell, has repeatedly been the target of Trump's wrath, as the Fed has been raising interest rates to make sure that the lowest unemployment in nearly five decades does not start pushing inflation higher. Arguing that the rate hikes hamper economic growth, Trump has openly questioned Powell's leadership.

## Administration moves to ban bump stocks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration Tuesday banned bump stocks, the firearm attachments that allow semi-automatic weapons to fire like machine guns and were used during the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

The regulation gives gun owners until late March to turn in or destroy the devices. After that, it will be illegal to possess them under the same federal laws that prohibit machine guns.

Bump stocks became a focal point of the gun control debate after they were used in October 2017 when a man opened fire from his Las Vegas hotel suite into a crowd at a country music concert, killing 58 people and injuring hundreds more.

The regulation was signed Tuesday by Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker. It will take effect 90 days after it is published in the Federal Register, which is expected to happen Friday.

Bump stock owners will be required to either destroy them or surrender them to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, a senior Justice Department official said. It is impossible to know just how many bump stocks Americans own because the devices aren't traceable, but ATF has estimated that between 280,000 and about 520,000 have been sold since 2010.

Investigators expect most owners will comply with the new rule and ATF will take action against those who don't, the official said. But there's no surefire way to know whether owners are complying. The official briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said President Donald Trump was "once again fulfilling a promise he made to the American people." Trump had promised the ban in March, saying the devices "turn legal weapons into illegal machines."

Shortly afterward, the Justice Department started the process of amending firearms regulations to define bump stocks as machine guns. ATF received about 186,000 comments on the proposal.

The amended regulations reverse a 2010 ATF decision that found bump stocks did not amount to machine guns and could not be regulated unless Congress changed existing firearms law or passed a new one. In the aftermath of the Las Vegas shooting, some members of Congress sought to ban bump stocks, but no legislation was passed. At least 10 states have sought their own restrictions.

The amended rule was met almost immediately with resistance from gun rights advocates, including Gun Owners of America, which said it would file a lawsuit against the Justice Department and ATF to protect gun owners from "unconstitutional regulations."

"These regulations implicate Second Amendment rights, and courts should be highly suspect when an agency changes its 'interpretation' of a statute in order to impair the exercise of enumerated constitutional rights," the organization's executive director, Erich Pratt, said.

The Justice Department official said the government will fight any legal challenge that may be brought.

The National Rifle Association called on the Justice Department to provide amnesty for gun owners who already have bump stocks.

"We are disappointed that this final rule fails to address the thousands of law-abiding Americans who relied on prior ATF determinations when lawfully acquiring these devices," said spokeswoman Jennifer Baker.

Police said the gunman in the Las Vegas massacre, Stephen Paddock, fired for more than 10 minutes using multiple weapons outfitted with target scopes and bump stocks. Paddock fatally shot himself after the shooting. There were 23 assault-style weapons, including 14 fitted with rapid-fire "bump stock" devices, strewn about his 32nd-floor hotel suite at the Mandalay Bay casino-hotel.

The largest manufacturer of bump stocks, Slide Fire Solutions, announced in April that it would stop taking orders and shut down its website. The remaining stock of the devices is now being sold by another company, RW Arms, based in Fort Worth.

## Shutdown talk recedes after wall threat eases

By Lisa Mascaro,  
Matthew Daly and  
Catherine Lucey  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and leaders in Congress appeared to be pulling back Tuesday from a government shutdown over his \$5 billion request for border wall funds, with the first signs of movement toward a possible end to the standoff.

The White House set the tone early when Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders indicated Trump — who just last week said he'd be "proud" to shut down the government — doesn't want to after all. The president would consider other options and the administration was looking at ways to find the funding elsewhere, Sanders said.

"The president has asked every agency to look and see if they have money that can be used," Sanders said.

It was a turnaround after days of impasse. Without a resolution, more than 800,000 government workers could be furloughed or sent to work

without pay, disrupting government operations days before Christmas.

One option that has been circulating on Capitol Hill would be to simply approve government funding at existing levels, without a boost for the border, as a stopgap measure to kick the issue into the new Congress next year. The White House preference was for such a short-term package, said a person familiar with the negotiations.

"We want to know what can pass," Sanders said at a press briefing. "Once they make a decision and they put something on the table, we'll make a determination on whether we'll move forward."

The turn of events kick-started negotiations that had been almost nonexistent since last week's televised meeting at the White House, when Trump neither accepted nor rejected the Democrats' offer. They had proposed keeping funding at current levels of \$1.3 billion for border security fencing and other improvements, but not for the wall.

The Senate's top Republican and Democratic leaders began negotiating new proposals and talks were expected to continue. One idea could

be a stopgap measure into February.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he was confident there would not be a government shutdown Friday when funding for parts of the government expires.

McConnell said a stopgap measure could be approved, though he suggested Nancy Pelosi, who is poised to become House speaker when the Democrats take control Jan. 3, would not want to saddle the new year with a budget brawl.

"If I were in her shoes, I would rather not be dealing with this year's business next year," McConnell said.

Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer have made it clear they are not interested in funding Trump's border wall.

During a meeting earlier Tuesday on Capitol Hill, McConnell had proposed \$1.6 billion for border fencing, as outlined in a bipartisan Senate bill, plus an additional \$1 billion that Trump could use on the border, according to a senior Democratic aide unauthorized to speak about the private meeting.

Democratic leaders immediately spurned the proposal. Schumer called McConnell to reject it.

## Judge delays Flynn sentencing, 'not hiding disgust' at crime

By Eric Tucker  
and Chad Day  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge Tuesday abruptly postponed the sentencing of President Donald Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, declaring himself disgusted and disdainful of Flynn's crime of lying to the FBI and raising the unexpected prospect of sending the retired Army lieutenant general to prison.

Lawyers for Flynn, who admitted lying to the FBI about his Russian contacts, requested the delay during the stunning hearing in which U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan told the former Trump aide in a blistering rebuke that "arguably you sold your country out."

"I'm not hiding my disgust, my disdain for his criminal offense," the judge said.

The postponement gives Flynn a chance to continue cooperating with the government in hopes of staving off prison and proving his value as a witness, including in a foreign lobbying prosecution brought just this week. The possibility of prison had seemed remote for Flynn, who was smiling and upbeat as he entered the courtroom, since prosecutors had praised his extensive previous cooperation and didn't recommend any time behind bars.

But the judge's upbraiding suggested otherwise and made clear that even defendants like Flynn who have cooperated extensively in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation may nonetheless be shadowed by the crimes that brought them into court in the first place. The hearing upset what had been a carefully crafted agreement and pushed months into the future a resolution of one of Mueller's signature prosecutions.

"This is a very serious offense — a high-ranking official of the government making false statements to federal agents while on the physical premises of the White House," Sullivan said.

He later softened his tone, apologizing for suggesting that Flynn had worked as a foreign agent, "undermining everything this flag over here stands for" while in the White House when that other work had actually already ended. He also backpedaled on an earlier question on whether Flynn's transgressions amounted to treason, saying he didn't mean to suggest they did.

Flynn was to have been the first White House official sentenced in special counsel Mueller's ongoing investigation into possible coordination between the Trump presidential campaign and Russia. The hearing, though incomplete, marked a remarkable

fall after a three-decade military career that included Flynn's tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and oversight of the Defense Intelligence Agency during the Obama administration.

It all comes amid escalating legal peril for Trump, who was implicated by federal prosecutors in New York this month in hush-money payments involving his former lawyer to cover up extramarital affairs. Nearly a half-dozen former aides and advisers have pleaded guilty or agreed to cooperate with prosecutors. Some, like Flynn, have been tripped up by concealing Russian contacts.

Flynn's help in the probes, including 19 meetings with investigators, has been especially notable. Yet he's nonetheless enjoyed Trump's continued sympathy, thanks in part to a sentencing memo last week that tapped into the president's suspicion of

law enforcement and took aim at the FBI's conduct during the investigation.

Trump tweeted "good luck" to Flynn hours before the sentencing and said: "Will be interesting to see what he has to say, despite tremendous pressure being put on him, about Russian Collusion in our great and, obviously, highly successful political campaign. There was no Collusion!"

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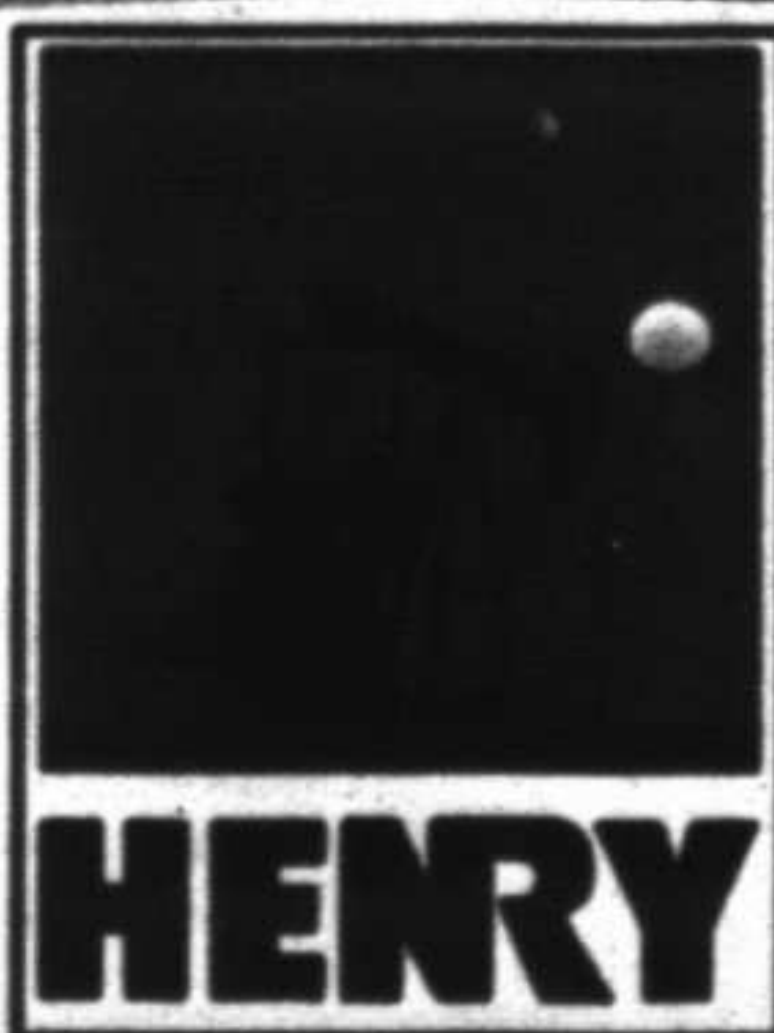
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# OPINION

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## Trump should respect the dignity of his office

The office of the presidency is known for wearing down the mere mortals who hold it.

At the very least, it prematurely ages its occupants. Often, it humiliates them, forcing them to rehabilitate their reputations later (George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter). In the worst case, it chews them up and spits them out (Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon).

It is a journalistic trope that this is happening to Donald Trump before our eyes. The media constantly write stories about how the president is panicked and cornered, barely able to handle his duties, as the walls perpetually "close in."

But as far as any outside observer can tell, he's as ebullient and combative as ever, and has never blinked no matter how intense the pressure of any given controversy.

Far from getting crushed by the weight of the office, Trump doesn't seem to feel it at all. Never has any president been as outwardly unfazed by the majesty of the presidency, or made less accommodation to its trappings and norms.

President Trump still acts like he's Ce-

**RICH LOWRY**

King Features Syndicate



lebrity Trump fighting a vicious flame war with Rosie O'Donnell, except his targets now might be another head of state, or his own attorney general or losing members of his own party.

The idea that he's a representative of the nation apparently makes very little impression on him. He never stops to think that any given gibe might be unworthy of the office, or maybe that he, blessed with more power and showered with more attention than anyone on the planet, has an obligation to be elevating and restrained, even if no one else is.

One of the attractions of the presidency to him appears to be that he can continue to punch down — but do it from a higher altitude than ever before.

To draw on examples from just this past weekend, he inveighed against stupid skits mocking him on "Saturday Night Live," questioning their legitimacy. He called Michael Cohen "a rat," using terminology favored by the mob (although usually in private). And he commented on the pending prosecution of Maj. Matt Golsiey.

Even after two years, he hasn't lost his capacity to surprise. Did the president of the United States really render the last name of the incoming chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Adam Schiff, as an expletive? Did he call that TV anchor "low IQ"? Did he insult the looks of the porn star he had an affair with? Did he call his former secretary of state dumb?

Of course he did. In the competition between blurring out whatever happens to be bothering him and paying a little heed to acting presidential, it's never a contest.

This doesn't mean that Trump should give up his enormously powerful megaphone on Twitter, or pretend to be something he's not (even if he could). He just

shouldn't go out of his way to affirmatively advertise his animosities and half-baked opinions.

Much of this is ephemera, but collectively and over time it creates a lasting impression. A major factor in the drubbing that Republicans suffered in the suburbs in November was a reaction against Trump's persona, as underlined by his own conduct and tweets. If he cares about keeping the presidency — and he surely does — he should care a little more about respecting the dignity of the office.

The great advantage of the presidency is that it is naturally set up to invest people elected to it with a certain grandeur, via the White House, saluting Marines, Air Force One, "Hail to the Chief" and ceremonial events large and small. All it requires is showing up and, very often, reading from a script. Rather than simply pocketing this benefit, Trump tends to undercut it 280 characters at a time.

If he's ever brought low, it's less likely to be from the pressures of his responsibilities than his cussed inability or unwillingness to make a minimal effort to conform to his role.

### GUEST VIEW

## Texas leaders need better plan for \$12B rainy day fund

Anybody who remembers the 1980s and the end of the oil boom in Texas understands why the state decided in 1989 to set up a constitutionally mandated rainy day fund. We needed to make sure we could keep the lights on should another crash come calling.

What no one expected then was the incredible return of the Texas energy industry that has seen "dry" oil and gas fields reborn and with them the soaring collection of severance taxes from oil and gas production. Those taxes have filled the rainy day fund to brimming with billions of dollars' new revenue.

The fund's official name — the Economic Stabilization Fund — holds more than \$12 billion, and that's after billions have been carved off to go into the underfunded state highway fund.

Plenty of people, both in government and outside of it, have ideas for what Texas should do with the money it's stockpiling. Few of those ideas are as sound as the one presented by state Comptroller Glenn Hegar.

In the last legislative session, Hegar proposed a couple of ideas that just make plain financial sense and that the Legislature should take up this session.

First, the state can no longer justify keeping the entire rainy day fund earning returns that barely cover inflation. Certificates of deposit at the local bank do better than the state of Texas does with its rainy day fund investment.

Hegar has called for setting aside a responsible amount of the fund — equal to about 8 percent of state expenditures — in the ultra-safe sort of investments the entire fund currently sits in.

The remaining amount — at present about \$4.5 billion and growing — would go into an endowment Hegar calls the Texas Legacy Fund. That money would still be invested conservatively but with an aim of earning a return of 3 percent to 4 percent above inflation. Those are hardly market-beating numbers, but when the investment is billions of dollars, the modest return can make a big difference in available funds to the state.

This isn't a radical recommendation. Through Hegar's office, the state already manages 14 endowments that are invested with a goal of creating returns that do more than keep up with inflation. That includes the money the state received from its settlement with tobacco companies. The returns on that money have helped support health care for the poor.

If we created another endowment with rainy day funds, the state would still have plenty of money in the bank to cover the cost of government in the event of a drastic downturn in the economy or to help support recovery after a major natural disaster such as Hurricane Harvey.

But the state would also enjoy an endowment that returned enough money to make a real difference in keeping Texas on strong financial footing going forward.

Which brings us to the second part of Hegar's proposal. He is recommending the Legislature dedicate returns from the endowment to address long-term drains on the balance sheet — specifically, the state's pension obligations.

All of us in Dallas know how fast a pension system can spoil an entire economy. Dallas was on the brink of disaster before the Legislature passed a fix that helped the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System restructure its obligations to retirees.

We can't afford that sort of trouble on a statewide basis. So while it is tempting to look at the rainy day fund as a way to shore up any number of needs, including education and Child Protective Services, it's wiser to ensure the state can pay what it has promised through the pension systems. That makes it easier to budget for other needs.

The Legislature has a lot on its plate in the coming session. But seriously addressing how we invest the rainy day fund is something lawmakers need to do in good times. If times get bad, we will wish they had.

— Dallas Morning News

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## Abuse of travel ban keeps mother from her dying 2-year-old son

The Trump administration is making a fool of

Chief Justice John Roberts. Administration lawyers told the Supreme Court that Trump's travel ban was not a "Muslim ban" in large part because it grants waivers to those in hardship who don't pose a national-security threat — and Roberts fell for it. In his majority opinion upholding the ban, he cited the waiver program, which helped give the ban "sufficient national security justification" and was similar to "humanitarian exceptions" used during the Carter administration.

Mr. Chief Justice, tell that to the family of little Abdullah Hassan. Two-year-old Abdullah lies dying in an Oakland, California, hospital from a rare brain disease. He and his father are both U.S. citizens. But under the travel ban, his Yemeni mother has been blocked from coming to see her son, her requests for a waiver so far ignored — and it appears the child, now on life support, may die before she has a chance to say goodbye.

"My son, Abdullah, needs his mother," the boy's father, Ali, said at a news conference Monday, joined by interfaith religious leaders at the Council on American-Islamic Relations office in Sacramento. "My wife is calling me every day wanting to kiss and hold her son for the last time." Weeping, Ali Hassan continued: "Time is running out. Please help us get my family together again."

This is what President Trump is doing in the name of the American people.

Last week, a 7-year-old girl from Guatemala died of dehydration and shock while in the custody of the U.S. Border Patrol. Last month, migrant children were hit with tear gas fired by border agents. And this year, hundreds of migrant children were separated from their parents and warehoused in makeshift barracks.

The abuse of the travel ban adds a whole new chapter to the Trump administration's inhumanity toward children. And this time, the administration has essentially lied to the Supreme Court about what it is doing.

"We have always said this travel ban is a betrayal of America's most fundamental values," Neal Katyal, who opposed the ban at the high court, told me Monday. "The administration claimed its waiver process was real, and stories like this show that it was a sham, is a sham and will continue to be a sham. The Democratic House should investigate the facts come January."

Earlier this year, statistics released by the administration showed waivers had been granted to only 2.1 percent of applicants over five months — 579 of 27,129. An affidavit from a former U.S. consular official obtained by Slate indicates personnel were operating under instruction to deny



**DANA MILBANK**

Washington Post Writers Group

waivers "at all possible cost."

A federal judge in San Francisco last week rebuffed the Trump administration's request that he dismiss a lawsuit claiming that the administration is denying nearly all visa applications from countries under the travel ban, as immigration advocates have alleged. The judge, James Donato, said the case was "not going away at this stage."

A State Department official on Monday said she could not by law discuss an individual visa case. She said the department had cleared 2,484 applicants for waivers as of Saturday, but declined to say how many people had applied. Without this information, it cannot be determined how many have been rejected or ignored.

This matters, because, as Justice Stephen G. Breyer wrote in the travel ban case: "If the Government is not applying the Proclamation's exemption and waiver system, the claim that the Proclamation is a 'Muslim ban,' rather than a 'security-based' ban, becomes much stronger. How could the Government successfully claim that the Proclamation rests on security needs if it is excluding Muslims who satisfy the Proclamation's own terms?"

Roberts accepted administration assurances that waivers would be granted in cases of "undue hardship," where public safety and the national interest were not harmed.

Now even the imminent death of an applicant's child apparently doesn't qualify as an undue hardship. Perhaps the Trump administration believes the toddler's young mother, Shaima Swileh, now living in Cairo, is a danger to public safety. Or that it serves the national interest to implement a policy with such barbarity.

Ali Hassan, whose family came to the United States in the 1980s, told the San Francisco Chronicle that he brought his Yemen-born son to America five months ago for medical care, but his condition deteriorated, and he has been on a ventilator for the past month.

"Abdullah is only 2 years old," Ali, in a quavering voice, pleaded Monday. "We celebrated his birthday just two days ago. So I am here today [asking] for your support and help to bring my family together for one last time."

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore





## 5 things to watch for from Federal Reserve

By Martin Crutsinger  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve is poised Wednesday to raise its key interest rate for the fourth time this year. But beyond that, the Fed's plans are shrouded in uncertainty.

What analysts do expect from the Fed is the message that it plans to become more flexible in its rate decisions starting next year. It will, in other words, tailor its rate policy more to the latest economic barometers and less to any preset course of steadily tightening credit.

Behind the Fed's shifting policy is a global slowdown, a U.S.-China trade war and a dizzying drop in stock prices that have combined to magnify the risks to the economy. On top of that, Chairman Jerome Powell has suggested that the Fed's gradual rate increases over the past three years have already raised its benchmark rate nearly to the point where too many further increases could weaken the economy.

Accordingly, beginning in 2019 the Fed might slow or suspend its rate hikes while gauging the state of the economy in light of the threats it faces.

Any clarity the central bank provides Wednesday could come in a policy statement, in updated economic and interest-rate forecasts or in a news conference Powell will hold.

Here are five things to watch for after the Fed meeting ends:

### Fewer future hikes?

In September, the Fed projected that it would raise its key short-term three rate times in 2019. That prediction was based on the median estimate of the Fed's board members and regional bank presidents who serve on its rate-setting committee. On Wednesday, the Fed is widely expected to scale back its forecast to just two rate increases for next year.

One way it would do so would be in its so-called "dot plot." The dot plot, updated quarterly, displays the anonymous projections of individual Fed officials for the path of their benchmark rate as well as for inflation and economic growth.

The Fed could also alter the language in the policy statement it will release. Its most recent such statements have said the Fed expects "further gradual increases" in its benchmark rate. This wording could be dropped or revised to something vaguer, perhaps that it expects "some further increases." This would suggest that the Fed might raise rates less frequently.

Powell himself could provide clarity in his news conference if he indicates where he thinks the "neutral rate" is. That is the level at which the Fed's key rate is thought to neither stimulate the economy nor hinder it. In a speech last month, Powell spoke of the current range of the Fed's benchmark rate — 2 percent to 2.25 percent — as "just below" neutral. He didn't elaborate.

### Economic outlook

Each quarter, the Fed also updates its outlook for economic growth based on the forecasts of its rate-setting committee. In its most recent outlook in September, the Fed predicted that the economy would expand a robust 3.1 percent this year before slowing to still-solid 2.5 percent in 2019.

Since then, though, a weakening in global growth has become more pronounced, posing a risk to the U.S. economy. China, the world's second-largest economy, is slowing. So is Europe, where Italy is on the verge of recession and Britain is struggling to negotiate an exit from the European Union. In addition, interest-rate sensitive sectors of the U.S. economy such as housing and autos are under more pressure.

If the Fed does downgrade its economic outlook, it would help solidify expectations that it's poised to scale back its rate increases next year.

### Tumbling markets

The stock market is

enduring a painful stretch, with steep losses Monday sending U.S. stocks to their lowest levels in more than a year. Among the factors depressing the market are the Fed's rates hikes. Given the persistent losses on Wall Street, investors will be watching to see if Powell drops any hint that the Fed considers the market's plunge a factor in its rate decisions.

Some analysts have speculated that the Fed has been raising rates partly as a way to prick a possible bubble. With stock prices far off their highs from earlier this year, the Fed may see no need to raise rates further as a way to prick a possible bubble.

### Trade conflicts

Trump's combative trade moves against China and other countries have escalated fears that the higher tariffs the United States has imposed and retaliatory tariffs from U.S. trading partners will depress growth in the United States and other major economies.

So far, Powell has taken care to express concern about rising tariffs while noting that they might ultimately prove beneficial if they force China and other nations to lower their trade barriers and thereby promote freer trade. That said, if the higher tariffs become entrenched and don't result in a lowering of barriers, Powell has said global growth would be harmed.

### Trump effect

Powell, who was Trump's choice to lead the Fed, has endured increasing public attacks from the president. Trump is unhappy with the Fed's continual rate hikes.

Trump fired off two such tweets this week in the run-up to the Fed meeting. On Monday, he called it "incredible" that the Fed would consider raising rates this week with "the outside world blowing up around us." On Tuesday, he urged the Fed to consider a Wall Street Journal editorial that argued for a "prudent pause" in rate hikes.

It is highly unusual for a president to be publicly vocal in any criticism of the Fed, though many presidents have complained privately about higher interest rates. Powell has so far insisted that Trump's criticism is having no impact on the Fed's decisions. But investors will be listening to see if Powell edges closer to Trump's view by saying the market's recent declines and the global slowdown argue for at least a pause in further hikes.

## Stock market woes bring recession fears

By Josh Boak  
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Fears of a recession have been mounting with the U.S. stock market appearing to be headed for its worst December since 1931 — during the Great Depression.

Wall Street's sustained slump has been fueled by investor concerns about lower corporate profits, higher corporate debt, a festering trade war between the United States and China and a broader global slowdown.

So is a U.S. recession imminent?

Not necessarily. Plenty of economic gauges suggest that far from being derailed by a stock market that's set to suffer its first annual loss in a decade, the \$20 trillion U.S. economy is barreling forward. Employers are hiring, consumers are spending ahead of the holidays and economic growth has been brisk, thanks in part to President Donald Trump's deficit-financed tax cuts.

But the economy has been growing since mid-2009 and nothing — not even what's become the second-longest U.S. expansion on record — lasts forever. As the expansion has aged, economists and business leaders are increasingly predicting that it will end within the next two years.

The fact is that recessions are a regular part of the economic cycle. A downturn won't necessarily happen in 2019. But the free-fall in stock prices could hasten the day. Tuesday's slight gain — the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 82 points, or 0.4 percent, after having lost over 1,000 over the previous two days — was barely a respite.

"While we aren't explicitly forecasting a recession next year, we wouldn't rule out a mild one," said John Higgins, chief markets economist of Capital Economics. "At the least, we expect a significant economic slowdown."

Nearly half the chief financial officers surveyed by Duke University's Fuqua School of Business foresee a recession by the end of next year. And by the end of 2020, 82 percent do so.

Here's a look at how the movements of the stock market and the barometers of the economy might determine the risks of a recession.

### Does a sustained fall in stock prices herald a recession?

Sometimes. Not always. Both the previous two U.S. recessions overlapped with stock market sell-offs. The Dow plunged nearly

32 percent in 2008 after the housing bubble burst. And it shed more than 5 percent in 2001 when the tech stock bubble burst. But stocks also declined in 2002 — a year when the U.S. economy expanded.

The fact is that the stock market captures just a piece of the broader U.S. economy. Less than half of U.S. households even own any stock, according to New York University economist Edward Wolff. And more than 80 percent of the stock market's value is controlled by the richest 10 percent of households, according to his calculations.

The bulk of most Americans' net worth is derived from a different asset: Their homes.

### How bad is the stock market decline?

It's painful. But Wall Street has endured far worse sell-offs.

Year-to-date, the Dow has lost about 5 percent — just a small fraction of its 2008 plunge. And the recent losses follow an extraordinary winning streak: From its bottom in March 2009, the Dow has rocketed 250 percent. This means that investors who have held on have earned a rich profit — even including the losses since October.

That said, the sell-off of the past two months has been severe — about 12 percent. This means the market has entered "correction" territory, commonly defined as a decline of at least 10 percent.

### What's behind the economy's strength?

Look to the job market. The 3.7 percent unemployment rate is near a half-century low. Average hourly wages have climbed 3.1 percent in the past 12 months, the strongest such increase since 2009.

The solid employment picture has helped fuel consumer spending. Retail sales have grown 5.3 percent so far this year as more Americans have eaten out and shopped online, according to the Census Bureau.

The jobs market is also where to watch for signs of a recession. Ahead of the 2008 financial crisis, the monthly hiring levels swung from gains to losses and unemployment shot up. The Labor Department issues a weekly report on people applying for unemployment benefits. A sustained increase in such applications would signal that employers are shedding workers in anticipation of a downturn.

### Does the housing market point to a recession?

This is tricky. By some measures, like the Census

Bureau's report on home construction, the housing market never really recovered from the meltdown of a decade ago. As a result, housing has contributed relatively little to the economic recovery, which makes it less likely to be a major force that tips it into a recession.

What has generally recovered are average home prices. Home sales prices have been steadily rising faster than Americans' average wages for the past few years, according to the National Association of Realtors. This made some homeowners wealthier. But it also reduced affordability of homes for many would-be buyers.

Until this past year, homebuyers had been helped by historically low mortgage rates. But mortgage rates began to creep up last year as it became clear that Trump's tax cuts would swell the federal budget deficit. Mortgage rates generally move in sync with 10-year Treasury notes. As the average 30-year mortgage rate has risen 4.63 percent from 3.93 percent a year ago, sales of homes have fallen.

### Are the Fed's rate hikes a risk for recession?

The Federal Reserve has become a punching bag for Trump as the stock market has tumbled. The Fed is widely expected to raise its key short-term rate for the fourth time this year on Wednesday, which would likely further raise borrowing costs for consumers and businesses over time.

The Fed is raising rates to try to keep inflation at its 2 percent annual target while maximizing employment. But if it miscalculates and raises rates too high or too fast,

history suggests it could trigger a recession.

Compounding the risk is that the Fed is also paring the huge bond purchases on its books, which resulted from the trillions in Treasury and mortgage bonds it bought to help the financial system recover from the 2008 financial crisis. Doing so magnifies the upward pressure on borrowing rates for consumers and businesses.

### Could resolving a trade war with China stop a recession?

Trump caused stocks to buckle when he ratcheted up taxes on Chinese imports in hopes of forcing Beijing to strike a deal that would protect U.S. technology from theft and reduce the trade deficit with China. Stocks recovered somewhat when further tariff increases were suspended after Trump met with President Xi Jinping earlier this month at an international gathering in Argentina.

A prolonged trade war could surely depress growth. But it's unclear whether any new deal would speed growth to the point where a recession could be avoided.

The fact is that economic growth around the world is slowing, including in the United States as the benefits from the tax cuts wane. Britain is struggling to leave the European Union. France faces economic unrest. Italy appears to be in recession. China is trying to engineer slower growth after a multi-decade boom that would be destabilizing if it had maintained its once-sizzling pace.



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**HOLY EUCHARIST**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Monday, December 24, 2018  
5:00 P.M. Children's Christmas Mass  
with Children/Youth Choirs  
(Doors open at 4:00 P.M.)  
8:00 P.M. Vigil Mass of Christmas - Bi-lingual  
Preceded by Carols at 7:30 P.M.  
11:00 P.M. Choral Christmas Eucharist  
Preceded by Carols with combined Choirs & Brass  
at 10:30 P.M.

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Tuesday, December 25, 2018  
Mass for Christmas Day  
10:00 A.M.  
With Musical Prelude beginning at 9:30 A.M.

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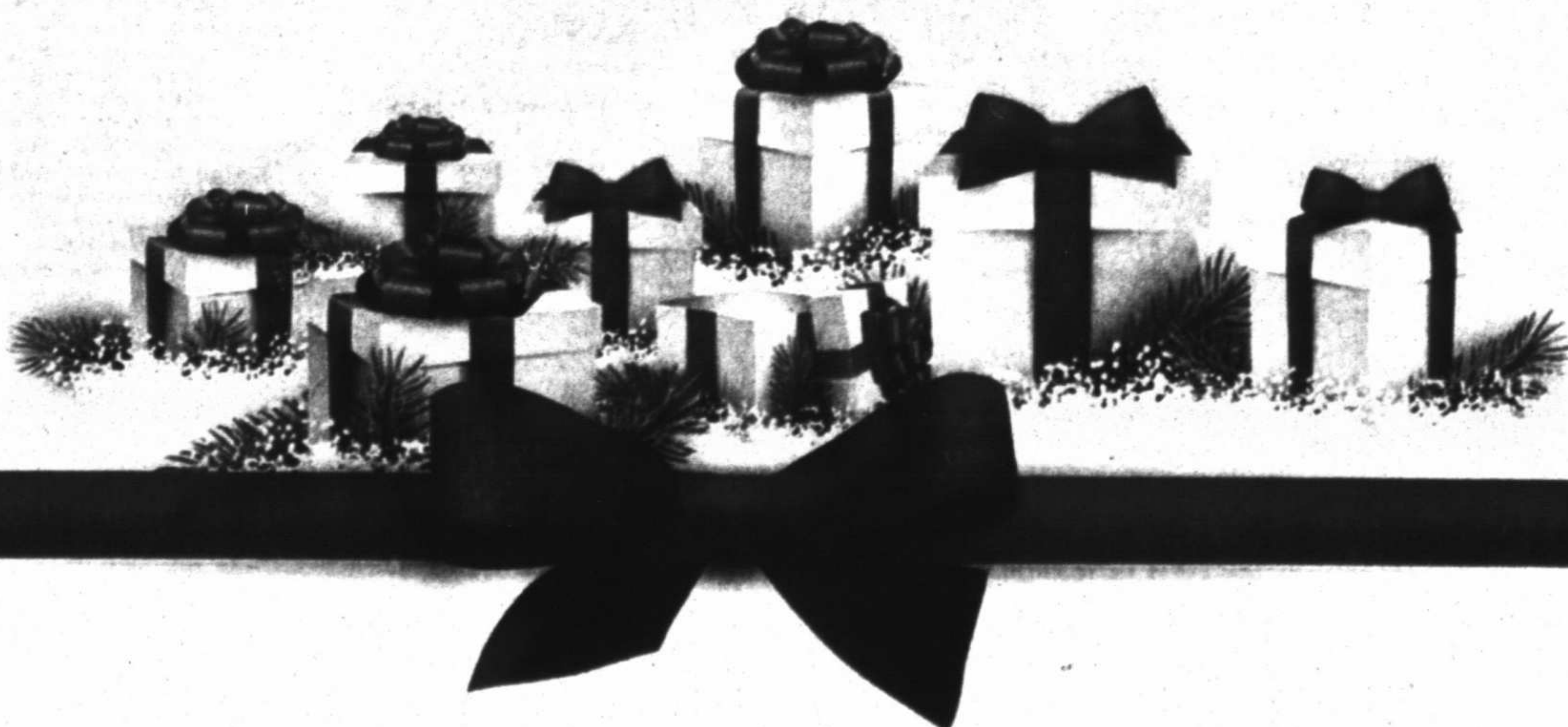


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# HEALTH+ WELLNESS

midland memorial hospital

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Wednesday, December 19, 2018 | Section B

## Texas ranks 37th in health assessment

State has largest number, highest percentage of uninsured residents under 65

By Sharon Jayson  
Kaiser Health News

AUSTIN — The booming \$1.8 trillion Texas economy rivals that of many countries and puts the state at the top of a host of rankings for its fast-growing cities, low unemployment and job growth.

But the familiar Texas braggadocio disappears when it comes to health care.

Texas has both the largest number (4.7 million) and highest percentage (19 percent)

of uninsured residents under age 65 in the country, according to a new Urban Institute analysis. Two-thirds of the uninsured are in families with at least one full- or part-time worker. The state ranks 37th in the "2018 America's Health Rankings," an annual state-by-state assessment of the nation's health. Thirty-three percent of adult Texans are obese. The state's maternal mortality rate is 34.2 per 100,000 live births, a rate that has increased 9 percent since 2016 and is one of the worst in the country. It ranks 45th in the

number of primary care doctors per capita.

The state's "Don't Mess With Texas" mantra drives much of its politics and policies, as limited government, low taxes and individual rights have prevailed at the statehouse for almost a quarter-century. That freewheeling formula has worked gangbusters for the economy, including the business of medicine, giving rise to some of the nation's wealthiest hospital systems, as well as hundreds of freestanding emergency rooms and surgery centers.

But it has, ironically, also left citizens struggling to get care and pay bills in health care's wild west. It has allowed and supported entrepreneurial health care practices that are illegal in many states, including free-standing emergency rooms, doctor-owned hospitals and balance billing. Texas has more uninsured residents than any other state, in part because its largely Republican state politicians elected not to expand

Please see RANKS/2B

## HEALTHY HEARTS



Courtesy photo

Those who volunteered at Saturday's teen heart screening are Crystal Trevino, back row from left, Ron Kell, Briana Haggard, Kathy Everett, Andrea Webster, Clay Wooten, Dr. Michael Miller, Laura Rivas, middle row from left, Liz Martin, Dr. Sulay Patel, Jenny Delk-Fikes, Dr. Leela Lella, and Shawn Stark, front row from left, Holly Baker, Stephanie Crawford, Stacey Medrano, Morgan Tennis and Kelsey Bohannon.

### Screenings can reveal teen cardiac abnormalities

■ Nonprofit to offer free screenings next month at MMH

By Michelle Garcia

Championship Hearts Foundation

More than 300 teenagers, parents, community volunteers, medical technicians and local cardiologists participated in the free teen heart screening Saturday at Midland Memorial Hospital. The screenings were offered through a partnership between MMH and Championship Hearts Foundation, an Austin-based nonprofit

agency. The mission of Championship Hearts — which will offer the screenings again next month — is to reduce the incidence of sudden cardiac death in Texas teens.

Cardiac disease is the No. 1 cause of death in the U.S., yet the adolescent population is not one that is usually screened for heart abnormalities.

The leading cause of sudden cardiac death in active youth is hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), a serious heart condition that affects 1 in 500 of the general population. HCM doesn't have any symptoms, and sudden cardiac arrest is

usually the first sign of any trouble. During the last 19 years, Championship Hearts has screened more than 25,000 Texas youth and has determined on average, 1 in 250 has a condition known to cause sudden cardiac death.

The free heart screening offered by Championship Hearts Foundation includes a 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG) and a limited echocardiogram (ECHO), two tests not usually part of standard pre-participation medical examinations for adolescents. The estimated cost of these tests is \$700.

Please see REVEAL/3B

### Plan ahead, stick to budget to avoid holiday stress

The holidays can be a stressful time of year, both financially and emotionally.

Symptoms include feeling depressed, hopeless, worthless or guilty; losing interest in activities you once enjoyed; having low energy, sleep problems, difficulty concentrating or frequent thoughts of death or suicide; experiencing changes in appetite or weight.

To cope with holiday-related stress:

■ Acknowledge your feelings

Whatever you are feeling this time of year is OK. Validate your feelings and allow yourself to cry if you are thinking of a lost loved one. The holidays

CLAUDIA  
LOPEZ  
Centers

can be an especially challenging time if we have lost someone or if we are away from family and friends.

■ Reach out

If you are feeling alone or sad, reach out to friends, family, community

members, etc. Or try volunteering; being around other people can help you cope.

■ Be realistic

In the world of cognitive behavioral therapy there are ways of thinking called cognitive distortions. A cognitive distortion is a thinking habit or pattern that we have learned to do over time that can be damaging to our inner dialogue. One type of cognitive distortion is called the "fairy tale fantasy." This is when we imagine what the future will look like, and if we do not meet that standard, then it is just not good enough and we put

Please see LOPEZ/3B

CHRIS  
TOMLINSON  
Houston Chronicle

### Patients should boycott free-standing emergency rooms

When an industry relies on half-truths and obfuscation to lure customers, there is something seriously wrong with the business plan. By that measure, free-standing emergency rooms require greater scrutiny. No one with the proper information would go near one of these supremely expensive walk-in clinics if they knew what it might cost them.

The core of the problem boils down to definitions and disclosures. And if you think you know what it means for an ER to "accept" your insurance, you're probably wrong.

Free-standing ERs dot the suburbs, where census data tells physician-entrepreneurs that most residents have private insurance or Medicare. Operators also like to locate where people have a lot of money and little patience for waiting.

These for-profit ERs, which have no affiliations with hospitals, take advantage of the typical consumer's ignorance of the difference between an urgent care clinic, a free-standing ER and a hospital ER.

An urgent care center can and should handle most consumers' immediate needs and charge only a little more than a doctor's office. A hospital ER is focused on life-threatening conditions and would prefer that you go to an urgent care clinic if possible.

Free-standing ERs don't really want trauma cases; they want urgent care cases. Their parlor trick is equipping the clinic like an emergency room, which by law allows them to charge 20 times more than an urgent care for precisely the same treatment.

For example, an average person who cuts his or her hand while slicing his or her Sunday morning bagel probably has never thought about urgent care versus an ER. He or she is only thinking about the blood flowing out and wants to go to the nearest location with the shortest wait time.

A cut requiring stitches is the perfect example of the nearly 56 percent of emergency room visits that are not emergencies, according to the New England Health Institute. But if it's your blood staining one of the good kitchen towels, you probably think it's an emergency, not merely urgent.

Then the obfuscation truly begins. Free-standing ERs love telling patients how they "accept all forms of insurance" because regulations require that insurance companies pay all ER bills. The ERs even

Please see TOMLINSON/3B



## Heart Matters

FREE Teen Heart Screening Jan. 12, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Midland Memorial Hospital

Sign up online at: [www.ChampHearts.org](http://www.ChampHearts.org)

Or call: 888-884-6945 or 512-900-3243





## RANKS

From 1B

Medicaid.

"We're not having honest discussions about medical needs," said Sen. Kirk Watson, a Democrat, a cancer survivor and former Austin mayor. Instead, the discussions focus on health care costs, he said.

McKinney resident Ken Blankenship, 48, in August was suffering from intense headaches, muscle pain and weakness.

"I was hanging outside all day. It was hot," he said, adding that he played basketball and threw around a baseball in the park. His wife forced him to go to an urgent care clinic, which diagnosed him as dehydrated, then referred him to a free-standing emergency room to rule out a stroke. Though the facility was in his insurance plan, his copayment was more than \$2,300 for fluids and a CAT scan.

"I was shocked. The first thing I thought was, 'That's crazy. It must be a mistake,'" Blankenship said.

He got the bill reduced by more than \$600 after calling the ER.

"All I know is, they have me wanting to be thankful for paying \$1,600," he said.

In many cases, there has been "somehow more of a free rein," with corporate entities now involved in the practice of medicine, said economist David Warner, professor emeritus of health and social policy at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas.

In 2009, Texas was the first state to allow ERs that were independent of hospitals, prompting a rush of highly profitable ERs. At last count, 214 free-standing ERs have popped up across the state, in addition to hundreds of urgent care clinics and surgery centers.

"Basically, they can charge what they like," Warner said. "They can have a charge scheme that has no relation to cost (of care)."

He said the free-standing ERs often mislead patients, telling them that their insurance will pay for everything and then going after the individuals for unpaid balances. For the most part, the Texas Medical Association — the country's largest state medical group — has championed doctors' business interests and also lobbied against giving nurse practitioners more leeway to practice independently, as they do in neighboring states.

When the Texas Legislature convenes next month, the TMA will focus on "broken issues" including free-standing ERs, Medicaid and overall access to care, said Dr. Douglas Curran, TMA's president and a family physician in East Texas.

Without policy changes, Texas' working poor and uninsured will continue to find it almost impossible to access quality care.

The state's failure to expand Medicaid — even in the midst of a robust economy — keeps millions of people in the Lone Star State living without insurance, straining the medical system, driving up costs and compromising public health.

"We can be a state that's wildly economically successful and still have more than one-quarter of our working-age adults uninsured," said Anne Dunkelberg, associate director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan, nonprofit policy institute in Austin.

Health care experts maintain that the political leadership has no interest in reducing the number of uninsured. The chairman and vice chairman of the Texas House Public Health Committee — Reps. Four Price and J.D. Sheffield, both Republicans — declined to be interviewed.

"It's not the cost per Medicaid enrollee that's going up and up," said Ken Janda, president and CEO of Community Health Choice, a nonprofit HMO for the Houston area. "We have too many poor people. A couple of years ago, there were only 3 million people on Medicaid, and now there's 4 million people."

The poor are "not immigrants coming over the border. It's people working at jobs that make minimum wage. These are not people sitting on their front porch waiting for their welfare checks," Janda said.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

## Obituaries



**James "Jim" Merriman**

James "Jim" Merriman, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away Sunday, December 16, 2018, surrounded by his loving family.

James was born June 25, 1922 in Sweetwater, Texas to Theodore Parr Merriman and Jo Ruth Lasater. They later moved to Lubbock, Texas where he graduated from Lubbock High School in 1940. He played left guard on the Lubbock Westerners football team, which won the State Championship in 1939.

After two years of college at Texas Tech, James joined the Naval Air Training Program, finishing flight school at Corpus Christi, Texas. He joined the Marine Corps and was assigned to Squadron VMB-413 where he flew PBJ's (B-25). He spent most of 1944 in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific where he flew 31 missions. Fifty years later, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service to our country in World War II.

He was an authentic American hero, saving the life of a fellow crew member after setting the plane down in the ocean. He swam into the plane to free his crew mate who was trapped in his parachute. Jim never spoke of his deeds, but was remembered and honored by the men whose lives he saved.

Jim married Bettye Louise Colbert in 1945, then completed college with a B.A. in Civil Engineering at the University of Texas in 1949. He began his 36 year career with Humble Oil Co., now Exxon Mobil, which took the family to Midland, New Orleans, Houston, Los Angeles, Alaska, Malaysia and Japan.

The design and construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline was his favorite and most challenging project.

Jim and Bettye raised 3 children, and enjoyed tennis, golf, and RV travel until her death in 1991. An adventurer at heart, Jim then sailed the South Pacific for several months with his son and daughter-in-law.

In 1993, he met Billie F. Bullock Taulman, and they married on January 1, 1994. They enjoyed RV travel and spent time on the road sight-seeing, often with friends.

They played bridge and golf, and were active in the Exxon/Mobil retirees group for many years. Jim and Billie are long-time members of the Keystone Sunday School class at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. In various locations, he served on church building committees and contributed in many ways, including singing in the choir.

James is survived by his

wife Billie, and his three children, James C. Merriman and wife, Anita Parsons Merriman of Santa Barbara, CA, Robert P. Merriman and partner Sabino Nava, Jr. of Westminster, CO, Cynthia Nussey and husband Dr. Gary A. Nussey of San Angelo, TX; stepson, LTC Otis C. Taulman and wife Lisa Taulman of Lakehills, TX, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The family will receive guests from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, December 20, 2018 at St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences may be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

**Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory**  
(432) 550-5800



**Leland Lloyd MacDonald**

Leland Lloyd MacDonald, 87, of Midland, Texas passed away on Friday, December 14, 2018 in Midland, Texas.

The memorial service will be held on Friday, December 21, 2018 at the First Baptist Church Chapel of Midland, Texas.

Lloyd was born on July 19, 1931 in Marfa, Texas to John MacDonald and Myrtle Barnett MacDonald. In 1948 he graduated from Marfa High School. While in school, he won awards for storytelling, reciting poetry and participated in choir, band, football, basketball and track. He graduated from Baylor University where he received BBA and LLB degrees. He served two years in the U.S. Air Force from 1952-1954 as a reserve officer. He married Juanice Koen on November 22, 1958.

In 1957 he came to Midland to work for Shell Oil Company as a title analyst.

Following a few years in private law practice, he joined the law firm of Kerr, Fitz-Gerald & Kerr. Later he became a partner in the Turpin, Smith, Dyer, Saxe & MacDonald Law Firm. He is a past president of the Midland Bar Association and in 2013 he was chosen to be the first recipient of the John Hyde Memorial Award.

His community service included serving as a Scout Master for the Boy Scouts, a member of the Westside Rotary Club and active in the Midland Jaycees. He was a member of the Midland Scottish Rite Association. He served two terms as chairman of the Salvation Army Board and was active in the First Baptist Church.

James is survived by his

Lloyd was very proud of his Scottish heritage and to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, he and Juanice toured Scotland, where they saw Invergarry Castle, the seat of the chiefs of the Clan MacDonald of Glengarry.

Throughout his life, when he was not in the courtroom, he cultivated his love of poetry and pursued his interest in the history of Texas. In 2009 his book, *Tejanos in the 1835 Texas Revolution*, was published with original illustrations that he crafted in leather.

He is survived by his wife, Juanice; daughter, Kathy (Chris Trobridge); daughter-in-law, Kristy MacDonald; granddaughters, Julianne MacDonald, Jessica MacDonald, Caitlin Trobridge and step-granddaughter, Haylee Barksdale; nephew, John Cartwright and nieces, Joanne Berndt and Brenda Knowles.

He is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Doris Dodd; brother, John MacDonald; son, David MacDonald; and step-granddaughter Krystean Hall. Our family would like to thank the medical team at Midland Memorial Hospital for their excellent care and support. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to

The Salvation Army of Midland, 200 S. Baird, Midland, TX 79701, Commemorative Air Force Airbase Arizona (Note: Donation in memory of L. Lloyd MacDonald). 2017 N Greenfield Rd., Mesa, Arizona 85215 (donations will be used for B-17 maintenance) or the First Baptist Church Benevolence Fund, 2104 W. Louisiana, Midland, Texas 79701.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences may be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

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**Ronald James Henderson**

On December 15, 2018, age 74, Ronald James Henderson of Midland, Texas, was promoted to his heavenly home.

Ronnie, as known by friends and family, was born in Corpus Christi, Texas to Fred and Margaret Henderson. He and his sister, Sherrill Ellis, enjoyed life in South Texas growing up. He moved to Midland and met his wife of 51 years, Virginia, with whom they had three children (Christine, Ronald and Catherine) and many memories together.

Ronnie spent 35 years working for Compressor Systems Incorporated. He en-

joyed moments of mechanic work of all kinds, mostly working on cars, but given any task he would find a way to ensure it was working before he stopped. Another joy came in taking amazing photos, whether of his kids, a location he was visiting, or the animals he was enjoying.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and his daughter, Christine Wiginton.

Survivors include, his wife, Virginia; his son, Ronald Henderson, of Fort Worth; his daughter, Catherine Henderson, of Midland; a sister, Sherrill Ellis, (Damon) of Mathis; and granddaughter, Katelyn Wiginton, (father, Jeff Wiginton) of Midland; nieces, Sabrina (Andy) Bruncke and Jennifer (Jason) Cox; and nephew James (Michelle) Ellis; and several great-nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 22, 2018, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home, 3800 N. Big Spring, Midland, Texas. A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 22, 2018 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland.

Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to the West Texas Aphasia Center, <http://www.aphasiawtx.org>. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences may be sent at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

**Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory**  
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**Steven Dees**

Steven Dees, age 53, of Odessa, Texas passed away on December 15, 2018 in Odessa TX. Steve was born in Odessa TX on May 9, 1965 to Edith EllaRay Blackmon and Samuel Dees.

Steve married the love of his life, Tammy on July 30, 1985 in Odessa TX. He worked in the oilfield for over 30 years and for the last 7 years owned and operated his own Consulting business.

Steve enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spending time at his lake house. He is a beloved husband, father, papa, and brother. He has touched the lives of many people over the years with his involvement in girls' softball, and his knowledge and willingness to teach those around him.

Steve is preceded in death by his parents, Samuel Dees and Edith EllaRay Dees.

Steve is survived by his beloved wife, Tammy Dees; his kids, Shanna and Mickey Moore; Kendra and Melissa Looney; Kristin and Randall Medina; and Ethan Dees, all

of Odessa; sister, Sylvia and James Schlauch also of Odessa; his 3 precious grandchildren, Michelle, Madison, and Alexander and many other nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 6:00-8:00 p.m., Thursday, December 20, 2018 at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be at 1:00 p.m., Friday, December 21, 2018 at Odessa First Church of the Nazarene, 2223 Lyndale Dr., Odessa TX, 79762.

The family wishes to extend our sincere thanks for all the visits, calls and texts through this difficult time.

Arrangements are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home in Odessa. To send family condolences please sign his guestbook at [www.sunsetodessa.com](http://www.sunsetodessa.com)

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**Death Notices**

### Erna Ward-Sass

The name of the decedent is Erna Ward-Sass, her birthdate is 05/10/1935, date of death is 12/16/2018. She was living in Oklahoma City, OK.

She has a Visitation service at Advantage Funeral Service at 7720 S Pennsylvania Ave., Oklahoma City, OK, 73159 on Wednesday 12/19/2018 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. CST and her Graveside Service will be Thursday 12/20/2018 at 11:00 a.m. CST at Resthaven Gardens Cemetery at 5528 SW 104th St., Oklahoma City, OK, 73139.

### Laverne Wegman Barr

Laverne Wegman Barr, 93, of Midland, Texas died Sunday, December 16, 2018 at her residence. Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 22, 2018 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Pastor Don Rosentreter officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory in Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

### Luis Cazares

Luis Antonio Cazares, 19, of Stanton, passed away December 16, 2018. Funeral mass will be held Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Stanton. Burial will follow at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery. Rosary will be held Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Stanton Memorial Funeral Home and Chapel 408 N. St. Peter.

Luis leaves to cherish his loving memory, his mother Cecilia Cazares, daughter Evelyn Mable Cazares, sister, Audriana Lea Cazares, and brother, David Angel Cazares.

Arrangements were under the direction of Stanton Memorial Funeral Home and Chapel.

## 'Laverne & Shirley' star, 'Big' director Penny Marshall dies

By Jake Coyle  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Penny Marshall, the trailblazing director of smash-hit big-screen comedies such as "Big" and "A League of Their Own" who first indelibly starred in the top-rated sitcom "Laverne & Shirley," has died. She was 75.

Michelle Bega, a spokeswoman for the Marshall family, said Tuesday that Marshall died in her Los Angeles home on Monday night because of complications from diabetes.

"Our family is heartbroken," the Marshall family said in a statement. In "Laverne & Shirley," among television's biggest hits for much of its eight-season run between 1976-83, the nasal-voiced, Bronx-born Marshall starred as Laverne DeFazio alongside Cindy Williams as a pair of blue-collar roommates toiling on the assembly line of a Milwaukee brewery.

A spinoff of "Happy Days," the series was the rare network hit about working-class characters, and its self-empowering opening song ("Give her any chance, she'll take it/ Give her any rule, she'll break it") foreshadowed Marshall's own path

as a pioneering female filmmaker in Hollywood.

"Almost everyone had a theory about why 'Laverne & Shirley' took off," Marshall wrote in her 2012 memoir "My Mother Was Nuts." "I thought it was simply because Laverne and Shirley were poor and there were no poor people on TV, but there were plenty of them sitting at home and watching TV."

Marshall directed several episodes of "Laverne & Shirley," which her older brother, the late filmmaker-producer Garry Marshall, created. Those episodes helped launch Marshall as a filmmaker. When Whoopi Goldberg clashed with director Howard Zieff, she brought in Marshall to direct "Jumpin' Jack Flash," the 1986 comedy starring Goldberg.

"Jumpin' Jack Flash" did fair business, but Marshall's next film made her the first woman to direct a film that grossed more than \$100 million. Her 1988 hit comedy "Big," starring Tom Hanks, was about a

12-year-old boy who wakes up in the body of a 30-year-old New York City man. The film, which earned Hanks an Oscar nomination, grossed \$151 million worldwide, or about \$320 million accounting for inflation.

Marshall reteamed with Hanks for "A League of Their Own," the 1992 comedy about the women's professional baseball league begun during World War II, starring Geena Davis, Madonna and Rosie O'Donnell. That, too, crossed \$100 million, making \$107.5 million domestically.

More than any other films, "A League of Their Own" and "Big" ensured Marshall's stamp on the late '80s, early '90s. The piano dance scene in "A League of Their Own" became iconic. Hanks' reprimand "There's no crying in baseball," from "A League of Their Own," remains quoted on baseball diamonds everywhere.

On Tuesday, Marshall's passing was felt across film, television and comedy. The James L. Brooks praised her for making "films which celebrated humans" and for her guiding influence to young comedians and writers. "To many of us lost ones she was, at the time, the world's greatest den mother."



Marshall

"She had a heart of gold. Tough as nails," recalled Danny DeVito, who starred in Marshall's 1994 comedy "Renaissance Man." "She could play round ball with the best of them." Marshall's early success in a field where few women rose so high made her an inspiration to other aspiring female filmmakers. Ava DuVernay, whose "A Wrinkle in Time" was the first \$100 million-budgeted film directed by a woman of color, said Tuesday: "Thank you, Penny Marshall. For the trails you blazed. The laughs you gave. The hearts you warmed."

In between "Big" and "A League of Their Own," Marshall made the Oliver Sacks adaptation "Awakenings," with Robin Williams and Robert De Niro. The medical drama, while not as successful at the box office, became only the second film directed by a woman nominated for best picture.

Carole Penny Marshall was born Oct. 15, 1943, in the Bronx. Her mother, Marjorie Marshall, was a dance teacher, and her father, Anthony, made industrial films. Their marriage was strained. Her mother's caustic wit — a major source of inspiration for Marshall's memoir — was formative.



## Plant-based diet can vanquish obesity epidemic

By Courtland Milloy  
The Washington Post

I will eat healthier. I will consume more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and legumes. No animals or animal products.

If it had eyes and legs, I won't eat it. If it had roots, it's a meal.

That is my get-fit manifesto. This time — yes, there have been other times, but this time — the goal is not just to slim down but to work toward getting a specific item removed from the District of Columbia Department of Health website:

"Obesity is a national and local epidemic. More than half of all adults living in DC are overweight or obese; rates climb to over 72% in two other wards within the District. Racial disparities with regards to obesity in the District are extreme, for example, less than one in every 10 white District residents are obese, whereas one in every three African-Americans in the District are obese."

And there is only one way to change it: Drop the weight — because the alternative is death.

So, repeat after me:

I will triumph over cake, pie and buttered rolls.

Cheese will fear me.

I will defeat Colonel Sanders, Pop-cyes, Ben and Jerry's, Famous Amos and Mrs. Fields — with both hands tied behind my back if necessary.

I will win this food fight.

During the past year, I have learned much about the benefits of eating a plant-based diet. I've attended classes at the GreenFare Organic Cafe in Herndon, Virginia, where owner Gwyn Whittaker and her staff show you how to shop for healthy foods and use them to prepare nutritious and tasty meals.

I've also learned that knowing how to eat healthy is different from eating healthy. But those who walk the walk are reaping astounding rewards.

Cecilia Hayes is one. She is in her 70s and lives in northern Virginia. She was suffering from congenital heart failure when she began taking the classes at GreenFare just over a year ago. She switched from fatty, sugary foods to plant-based, mini-

### COMMENTARY

mally processed meals. It didn't take long for her body to respond.

"What happened was, after three months, I went to my heart doctor and she said my condition had improved significantly," Hayes told me recently. "My blood sugar was down, and I had lost weight. The other thing, which is hereditary — women in our family get swelling in the lower legs. I'd been fighting that for years. Now the swelling is gone, and I can wear shoes that I hadn't been able to get into for years."

My taste buds recoil at the thought of choosing, say, tofu over cheese. But Hayes' results should make that choice a no-brainer.

I also spoke with James Loomis about the benefits he got from switching to a plant-based diet. Loomis is director of the Barnard Medical Center in the District, which puts emphasis on nutrition in the prevention and treatment of disease. He has served as team internist for the St. Louis Rams football team and the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team, as well as tour physician for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

Before going on a plant-based diet in 2011, he was overweight, suffering from asthma and a knee injury. Then he happened to read a book, "Forks Over Knives," that spurred his dietary change. Today, he is 60 pounds lighter and no longer has asthma. The knee is working fine, too.

"I'm 60 years old, and I'm training for the Ironman triathlon," Loomis said. "It's amazing that I can contemplate that at my age."

Loomis added that going plant-based changed him not only personally but professionally as well.

"I came to realize that what we call a 'health-care system' is really 'sick care,'" he said. "Our system — with a focus on surgery and pills — can add years to your life, but it takes away life from your years. The only way we can truly add life is by focusing on the root causes of disease, and in many cases it's the food we put in our mouths."

And yet, here I am still loving

steak and cheese and barbecued ribs — despite an abundance of evidence linking red meat to cancer. One reason may be the messaging.

"We as doctors talk about this the wrong way — addressing the problem out of a paradigm of fear," Loomis said. "Get your blood pressure down or you'll have a stroke." People already know that. What we need to ask is: Why would it be important not to have those bad things happen? Write down the top five reasons."

Hadn't tried that before. Let's see if it helps.

Whittaker, the owner of GreenFare, says we have been conditioned to eat a certain way. And unlearning takes time. "When parents give children candy as a reward, that pleasant association with sweets stays with the child," she said.

Better to give them an apple, she said.

It takes a few weeks of eating plant-based for our taste buds to reset, Whittaker said. And after a while, you'll be wondering why we were craving the foods that are killing us.

There is no underestimating the challenge, however. As noted in a report this month by the World Resources Institute, "Researchers have long presented the environmental case for shifting high-meat diets toward plant-based foods, but achieving large global benefits is harder than often suggested."

Harder because not everybody has access to healthy plant-based foods. Harder because many of those who do have an abundance of plant-based foods still make bad choices like I do.

Or did.

But no more.

Repeat after me:

Steel-cut oats will be my new Breakfast of Champions, not Cocoa Puffs.

I may have pigged out on Thanksgiving, but I will not eat myself into a stupor during the rest of the holidays.

Black-eyed peas on New Year's Day, OK. Chitterlings? No way.

The epidemic of obesity will be vanquished.

## Unemployment, income affect life expectancy

By Nicky Forster  
Associated Press

### ANALYSIS

NEW YORK — Even your lifespan can be local.

Researchers have long said that health disparities are heavily influenced by where you live. New data from the National Center for Health Statistics show just how much your neighborhood can impact the length of your life.

In recent years, the U.S. has seen overall life expectancy decrease, from 78.7 years in 2015 to 78.6 years in 2017. Experts have pointed to opioid addiction and an increase in suicides as the main reasons.

Behind that national average are American neighborhoods where recently born residents can expect to live much longer, or much shorter, lives.

The Associated Press analyzed life expectancy and demographic data for 65,662 census tracts, which are geographic areas that encompass roughly 4,000 residents. The AP found that certain demographic qualities — high rates of unemployment, low household income, a concentration of black or Native American residents and low rates of high school education — affected life expectancy in most neighborhoods.

An increase of 10 percentage points in the unemployment rate in a neighborhood translated to a loss of roughly a year and a half of life expectancy, the AP found. A neighborhood where more adults failed to graduate high school had shorter predicted longevity.

New York state had the largest range for life expectancy among its neighborhoods, spanning 34.5 years. The places with the highest and lowest

estimates are both in New York City. Children born between 2010 and 2015 in part of the northern half of Roosevelt Island have an estimated life expectancy of 59 years; a child born 6 miles away in Chinatown can expect to live 93.6 years.

In one North Carolina neighborhood — Fearington Village in Chatham County — a child born between 2010 and 2015 can expect to live 97.5 years, the highest estimated lifespan for any neighborhood in the U.S. A child in part of Stilwell in Adair County, Oklahoma, can expect 59 years on average, the nation's lowest.

The AP analysis also found discrepancies among states. Life expectancy in Hawaii topped all other states at 82 years. Mississippi's estimate of 74.9 was the lowest, followed closely by West Virginia, Alabama, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

The AP analyzed 88.7 percent of all U.S. census tracts. Maine and Wisconsin were excluded because some of their death records lacked home addresses of the deceased.

The data is part of a new partnership between the National Center for Health Statistics, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS), and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Through the collaboration, researchers used six years of death records and demographic data to create a longevity estimate for nearly every census tract in the country.

## HEALTHBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

### Midland Health events

Weight to Success Informational Seminar, 4 p.m. Thursday, Midland Memorial Hospital, Sundae Adkins, 638-8081, [sundae.adkins@midlandhealth.org](mailto:sundae.adkins@midlandhealth.org); free, register at [midlandhealth.org](http://midlandhealth.org) and click on classes & events.

### Weekly support groups & hotlines

(subject to change)

■ TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Christian Church of Midland, 2609 Neely Ave. 694-8643.

■ Overeaters Anonymous: 3 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, St. Stephen's Catholic Church, 553-1031.

■ Survivors of sexual abuse: interactive Bible study to help deal with the consequences of sexual abuse meets Tuesdays. Child care available; House of Hope, 570-5935.

■ Peer to Peer support group for veterans, active duty, guard, reserves and their families, 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Permian Basin Community Center, 401 E. Illinois Ave., Suite 403; Wil Hoggard, 213-5342, [william.hoggard@wtc-mhm.org](mailto:william.hoggard@wtc-mhm.org).

■ PDAP meetings: 7-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays: Parents group and younger group (12-17), 1208 W. Wall St.; college group (18-26), 2503 W. Ohio Ave.; older group (27 and over), First Presbyterian Church 11:30-1:30 p.m. Wednesdays: older group, 1208 W. Wall St., includes lunch.

■ Alcoholics Anonymous

— hotline 580-7868.

■ Serenity Group, 8 p.m. daily, 3101 N. "A" St., Building C; 685-3100. 710 Group, 7 a.m., noon and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 710 Ohio Ave.; 682-8162.

■ Alpha Omega, 8 p.m. Tuesdays and 11 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 311 S. Pecos St.

■ 12-Step Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. Saturdays, Christ Church Anglican, 5501 N. Midkiff Road, Bldg. A, 553-7220.

■ Al-Anon (support group for family members of alcoholics), Serenity Group 3101 N. "A" St., Bldg. C, noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday.

■ Narcotics Anonymous — hotline 582-2926.

■ Laundry Group, 8 p.m. daily and noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 104 N. Marshall St.

■ Xodus Group, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, PDAP, 1208 W. Wall St., 634-7609.

■ CODA Group, 12-step program for relationships, 7 p.m. Fridays and Sundays, Christ Church Anglican, 5501 N. Midkiff Road, Bldg. A, 599-4490.

■ La Hacienda Alumni, support group for former patients, 7 p.m. Thursdays, Christ Church Anglican, 5501 N. Midkiff Road, Bldg. A, 553-7220.

### COM Aquatics

COM Aquatics, 3003 N. "A" St., offers weekly paddle board classes.

The schedule is: Hit the Wave, 7:15 p.m. Monday, 5:15 a.m. Tuesday and Sat-

urday, 6:45 p.m. Thursday and 10:15 a.m. Saturday; and Cardio Wave is 11:05 a.m. Thursday.

Members of COM Water Aerobics Program can reserve a board at any time; non-members can reserve a board two hours before class. (For early-morning classes, call the night before.) To reserve a board, call 684-7755, extension 101.

### Finding a doctor

Access to a primary care provider is one mission of Midland Health. Residents who need help finding a physician or setting up an appointment can call 221-3627 (221-DOCS).

### Hope Chest

Hope Chest is a program that provides support for women during their pregnancy and after their baby is born.

Hope Chest allows mothers and mothers-to-be to earn necessities such as diapers, wipes, clothing and car seats through a point system.

Points are earned by attending prenatal appointments and childbirth classes, and once the baby is born, moms continue to earn points at pediatrician visits until the child turns 2.

The program office is at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus. For more information or to enroll in the program, call 221-1150. To make a monetary donation or donate brand new baby items to Hope Chest, call the March of Dimes office at 416-7310.

### MMH payment options

Midland Memorial Hospital recognizes that our community is facing challenging financial times. Resources are tight and families are having to make important decisions about what to spend money on now and what has to wait.

Realizing health care can be expensive and the increasing deductibles make it hard to manage, the hospital has adjusted its payment procedures. We want to make sure you receive the care you need, when you need it. To find out about the new options now offered to better accommodate your payment needs, call 221-4705.

Source: Midland Memorial Hospital

### How sick are you?

Midland Memorial Hospital offers a nurse triage program "68-NURSE." The program is designed to help people determine whether their health situation warrants a trip to the emergency room. Midland residents can call the line by dialing 686-8773.

The program is free and available 24 hours a day-365 days a year. Local nurses are available to help you determine the best place to receive care for your situation. 68-NURSE can help you save time and money by directing you to the most appropriate healthcare option, whether it's a neighborhood clinic, urgent care center, emergency room ... or just staying home.

### Stick to a budget

Setting a budget for gift buying can help ease stress and can prevent arguments with your spouse.

### Plan ahead

Know what to expect and set aside days for spending time with friends and family. Plan your menu or make a list of gifts to buy so that you don't feel overwhelmed and you don't forget anything.

### Learn to say no

Saying no is hard for some people. It's important to establish boundaries and to really think through something before agreeing to do it. This can ease stress and the feeling of not having enough hours in the day.

### Don't abandon healthy habits

Eating too many treats during the holiday season can leave us feeling sluggish and guilty. It's OK to indulge a little but make sure not to overindulge.

### Take a breather

If you need a time-out from family, shopping, cooking, etc. take the time. Take 10 or 15 minutes to collect yourself. Everything will still be waiting for you when you get back. Communicate to friends and family that you need a little break.

### Seek professional help if you need it

If you feel down for days at a time or can't get motivated to go to work or to socialize, contact a mental health professional. Call Centers at 570-1084.

## REVEAL

From 1B

but through the foundation, the screenings are offered free to 14- to 18-year-olds. The tests are non-invasive and painless.

Although designed to detect HCM, the screening can also reveal other serious heart abnormalities such as long QT syndrome, Wolff Parkinson White syndrome and bicuspid aortic valve. The Championship Hearts screening program is recognized by the Texas Chapter of the American College of Cardiology as a quality initiative.

Close to 200 Midland teens received the heart screening that provides important baseline health knowledge for those students and their families.

## TOMLINSON

From 1B

display insurance company logos on the door.

Accepting insurance, though, is not the same as being in-network. Insurance companies are required to pay only in-network rates, which will undoubtedly be much less than what the ER bills. Too many patients do not realize they are liable for the difference until a surprise bill arrives, usually after the stitches have fallen out.

AARP Texas found that 77 percent of the state's 215 free-standing ERs said they "take" or "accept" Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance but were out of network.

Free-standing ER operators promote this confusion, and they lobby lawmakers in Austin to keep you uninformed.

After thousands of complaints, the Texas Legislature passed a law in 2015 requiring facilities to post notices that they are not urgent care facilities. They must also declare whether they are in-network.

The free-standing ERs posted notices that said they accept insurance but didn't list any networks because very few facilities are in a network.

Patients kept complaining, so lawmakers introduced a bipartisan bill last year requiring operators to post their facility fees and remove the logos of insurance companies unless they were

Local volunteer cardiologists provided immediate screening results to appreciative parents, and six students were referred for further pediatric cardiology evaluation for a variety of suspected conditions. For most of the attendees, the entire process was complete in about one hour.

The Championship Hearts Foundation and MMH will offer the free Teen Heart Screening 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 12. Pre-registration is available online at [www.Champ-Hearts.org](http://www.Champ-Hearts.org), or by calling the foundation at 888-884-6945 or 512-900-3243.

Volunteer opportunities are available via links on the Foundation website.

Michelle Garcia is executive director of Championship Hearts Foundation.

in network. The bill would have also banned free-standing ERs from saying they "accept or participate" in a health insurer's plan unless they were in-network.

"We were able to amend those provisions out of this bill, and what is left is a simple modification to the posting notice," industry representatives declared in a note to operators posted online.

The final bill only requires free-standing ERs to post: "The facility is not a participating provider in any health benefit plan provider network."

When my colleague Jenny Deam checked 15 months later, she found that free-standing ERs still prominently advertise that they "accept" private insurance on websites, then bury the notice about being out of network in drop-down tabs.

Free-standing ERs have no legitimate excuse for failing to warn patients about the potential for receiving huge bills. Operators know they will balance bill because their business plan depends on it. But they also know if they were upfront about the costs, most patients would get their stitches at an urgent care instead.

Lawmakers will try to pass new disclosure laws next year, but until then, patients should boycott free-standing ERs — at least until operators grow a conscience.

## LOPEZ

From 1B

ourselves down.

The "perfect holiday season" will not happen this year; it never happens, there are always little things that don't go according to plan. Learn to live in the positive moments this season and try not to focus on the things that "could not be."

### Set aside differences

The holiday season is about meeting with family and friends. During this time of year, it can be stressful to interact with loved ones, specifically if you disagree about politics, religion, etc. Set aside these discussions for an appropriate time and focus on spending quality time with those you love.





AP file photo

Paralympic wheelchair racer Tatyana McFadden poses for photos at the 2016 Team USA Media Summit on March 7, 2016, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

## Paralympic athlete honors her trainers

By Christina Tkacik  
The Baltimore Sun

The orphanage in St. Petersburg, Russia, didn't have wheelchairs, so until she was 6, Tatyana McFadden simply crawled on the floor, her legs folded back underneath her body. Born with spina bifida, she had lacked proper medical treatment, but her eyes were bright, she was spunky and smart, said Deborah McFadden, who was commissioner of disabilities for the U.S. Health Department and touring the facility when she first met her Tatyana. McFadden had no intention of adopting a child that day, but was captivated by the spunky 6-year-old. After she left the orphanage, the girl told the other children, "That's my mom."

More than two decades later, Tatyana McFadden, 29, is a Paralympic athlete in wheelchair racing and the winner of seven gold medals. She credits much of her success to two trainers at the Kennedy Krieger Institute: Gerry and Gwena Herman, co-founders of the Bennett Blazers athletics program for kids with disabilities.

Recently, McFadden presented the trainers with the Order of Ikko Medal, which acknowledges the contributions of coaches of Olympic and Paralympic athletes. Twelve Paralympic athletes have emerged from the Bennett Blazers program.

The aging gymnasium of the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Greenspring campus where she spoke was "where it all began for me," McFadden said. When she began training at the center, she spoke hardly any English. She needed someone else to push her wheelchair. She didn't know which direction to go on the basketball court.

"You've helped me to achieve my dreams since I was 15, and hopefully many more," McFadden told the Hermans during a holiday party. Currently pursuing her master's

degree in Illinois, she plans to compete in the 2020 Olympics.

The award took both trainers by surprise — and was an emotional experience for them. "We're kind of known as hard asses," said Gerry Herman. Receiving the award, he said, "I almost cried, but I didn't cry." He and his wife try to instill in young people a sense of their own possibilities. Their motto is "teach them they can before someone tells me I cannot," Gerry Herman said.

McFadden also presented the Hermans with a donation toward the renovation of the gym's pool. Swimming is a central focus of their athletic program because it allows kids to build strength and flexibility without straining the skeletal system, said Gerry Herman. Gwena Herman said that when teaching kids with disabilities how to swim, they take the idea of disability out of the picture. "We just see a child that wants to learn how to swim," she said.

The program's participants posed for pictures with McFadden after she presented the award. Among them was 3-year-old Salma Ellabany, who uses a wheelchair because of a spinal cord injury. She has been in the program since the fall.

"She loves it," said her mother, Soad Mahfouz. "She's more open to talking to people. ... It's great to see her being open to trying new things."

The programs benefit parents, too, by helping them overcome the tendency toward over-protection. Watching her daughter build strength and participate in team sports, with weekend ice hockey tournaments and basketball games, Deborah McFadden said, "I became a normal mom, not a mom with a kid with a disability."

Of course, now she's not a normal mom, either. She's the mom of a Paralympian.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

## Study: Child abuse climbs after Friday report cards

By Lindsey Tanner  
Associated Press

Child abuse increases the day after school report cards are released — but only when kids get their grades on a Friday, a study in Florida suggests.

The curious finding startled researchers, who had figured abuse might go up regardless of the specific day kids got their grades.

But their study of reports to a child abuse hotline that included broken bones, burns and other confirmed abuse found otherwise. An increase only occurred on Saturdays after a report-card Friday. Though overall rates were small, there were almost four times more cases on those Saturdays than on other Saturdays. No apparent connection between report cards and abuse was found on other days of the week.

"Anecdotally, we know a lot of parents will spank their children or use corporal punishment if they're unsatisfied with their school work," said University of Florida psychologist Melissa Bright, the lead author.

That punishment may become abusive when kids don't have school the next day and parents think injuries might be more likely to go un-

ticed, the researchers said, noting that teachers are required to report suspected child abuse. Or, it could be that severe punishment is less likely on weekdays when parents are too busy to focus on report cards, Bright said.

But she acknowledged those theories are speculation and that the findings aren't proof.

The study was published Monday in JAMA Pediatrics.

The researchers reviewed calls to a Florida child abuse hotline and school report card release dates in most of Florida's 67 counties during the 2015-2016 academic year. Nearly 2,000 cases of physical abuse in kids 5 to 11, confirmed by child welfare authorities, were included.

There was an average of slightly more than 0.6 cases of abuse per 100,000 children on Saturdays after a report-card Friday compared with slightly less than 0.2 cases per 100,000 children on other Saturdays. The average was less than one per day because so many days were included in the analysis. But in a state like Florida, with a school-age population of just more than 3 million kids, this could amount to 19 cases of report card-related abuse compared to five on other Saturdays, the researchers said.

Outside experts noted study limitations, including no evidence that kids who were abused had received poor grades and no information on when parents first learned of kids' grades. But they said the study was useful for highlighting that child abuse and corporal punishment are still too common even though rates have declined since the 1990s. Rates were 9 per 1,000 U.S. kids in 2016 compared with 13 per 1,000 in 1990.

Dr. Robert Sege, a Boston pediatrician and Tufts University professor of medicine, said bad grades should be a time for parents to find out what's causing their children's struggles. "There's no place for corporal punishment for school failure because it doesn't work and misses the point."

Sege is lead author of an American Academy of Pediatrics policy update released last month that recommends against corporal punishment and spanking.

An editorial published with the study said the United States deserves a C-minus "for effective discipline strategies."

Changing a report card release day may reduce some abuse, the editorial said, "but it will not solve the larger issue: It is still socially acceptable to hit a child to correct their behavior."

## CVS CEO seeks bigger role in health care

By Tom Murphy  
Associated Press

CVS Health CEO Larry Merlo wants customers to think about more than prescriptions and shampoo when they visit his company's drugstores.

He expects the stores to become health care pit stops, especially for patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes. Vision, hearing and blood sugar checks will be available at many locations, and customers also may be able to get help with diets and nutrition.

CVS has largely finished its \$69 billion acquisition of the insurer Aetna, part of the company's broader effort to expand its health care offerings. A federal judge is still evaluating the deal and had a hearing on Tuesday.

Merlo spoke recently with The Associated Press. The conversation has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: What are some specific changes shoppers will see first in your stores?

A: Early next year ... we will pilot our first concept stores that begin to change the role of the retail pharmacy. The store will continue to have a pharmacy, it will continue to have products that will be focused on health, beauty, personal care and elements of convenience. But it will also have services. About 15 to 20 percent of the stores will be repurposed for services like an expanded (in-store) MinuteClinic.

Q: You've talked a few times about revolutionizing the customer's health care



Andrew Harnett/Bloomberg

Larry Merlo, president and chief executive officer of CVS Health Corp., speaks Oct. 15 during an Economic Club of Washington discussion in Washington, D.C. CVS has largely finished its \$69 billion acquisition of the insurer Aetna, part of the company's broader effort to expand its health care offerings. A federal judge is still evaluating the deal and has scheduled a hearing Tuesday.

experience. What does that mean?

A: It really is helping them understand how to best use their benefit programs. Take a patient with diabetes. They likely visit their physician three, four times a year. They leave the office with a care plan that includes medication, diet, nutrition, exercise. We can help those patients make sure they're staying adherent to their plan, which oftentimes is not the case.

Q: Do you expect to eventually replace the

family doctor?

A: No, absolutely not. Our goal is to complement the role of the primary care physician. This past year we referred 3 1/2 million patients on to a physician. The vast majority were patients that we see at MinuteClinic that simply do not have a ... physician. The referrals are not because they can't be treated. We believe everyone should have access to a (primary-care physician).

Q: You're combining with a health insurer. How can consumers trust that

they're getting the best care from a company that's also paying for that care?

A: Our hallmark as a company has always been do what we need to do to take the best care of the patients that we serve. Our purpose as a company is to help people achieve their best health.

Q: If you fail to provide good care, customers won't return. Is that part of the equation?

A: Customer satisfaction is critically important. It becomes a form of retention.

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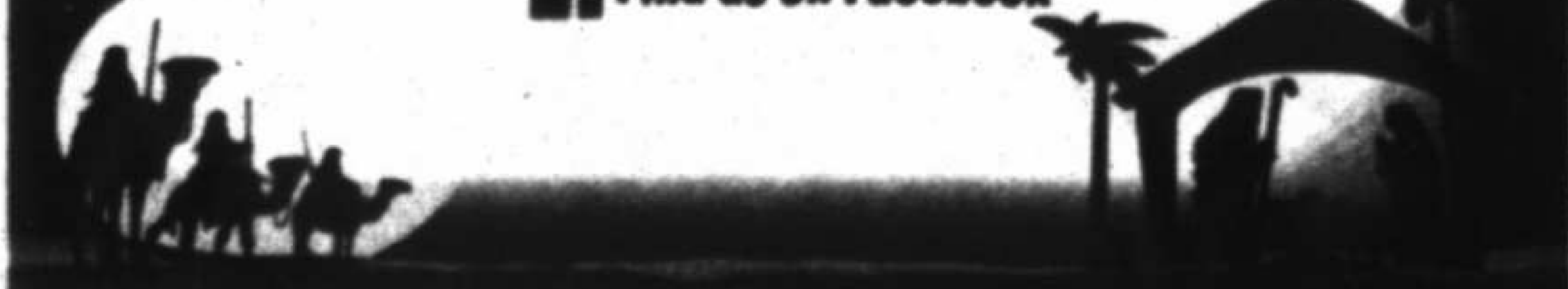
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## Survey: Usage of e-cigarettes is up among teens

By Mike Stobbe  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Twice as many high school students used nicotine-tinged electronic cigarettes this year compared with last year, an unprecedented jump in a large annual survey of teen smoking, drinking and drug use.

It was the largest single-year increase in the survey's 44-year history, far surpassing a mid-1970s surge in marijuana smoking.

The findings, released Monday, echo those of a government survey earlier this year. That survey also found a dramatic rise in vaping among children and prompted federal regulators to press for measures that make it harder for kids to get them.

Experts attribute the jump to newer versions of e-cigarettes, like those by Juul Labs Inc. that resemble computer flash drives and can be used discreetly.

Trina Hale, a junior at South Charleston High School in West Virginia, said vaping — specifically Juul — exploded at her school this year.

"They can put it in their sleeve or their pocket. They can do it wherever, whenever. They can do it in class if they're sneaky about it," she said.

Olivia Turman, a freshman at Cabell Midland High School in Ona, West Virginia, said she, too, has seen kids "hit their vape in class."

The federally funded survey has been conducted by University of Michigan researchers annually since 1975. This year's findings are based on responses from about 45,000 students in grades eight, 10 and 12 in schools across the country. It found 1 in 5 high school seniors reported having vaped nicotine in the previous month.

After vaping and alcohol, the

most common thing teens use is marijuana, the survey found. About 1 in 4 students said they'd used marijuana at least once in the past year. It was more common in older kids — about 1 in 17 high school seniors said they use marijuana every day.

Overall, marijuana smoking is at about the same level as it was the past few years. Vaping of marijuana rose, however.

More teens, however, are saying no to lots of other substances. Usage of alcohol, cigarettes, cocaine, LSD, ecstasy, heroin and opioid pills all declined.

Experts say it's not clear what's behind those trends, especially since the nation is in the midst of the deadliest drug overdose epidemic.

"What is it that we're doing right with teenagers that we're not doing with adults?" said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, a federal agency that funds the Michigan study.

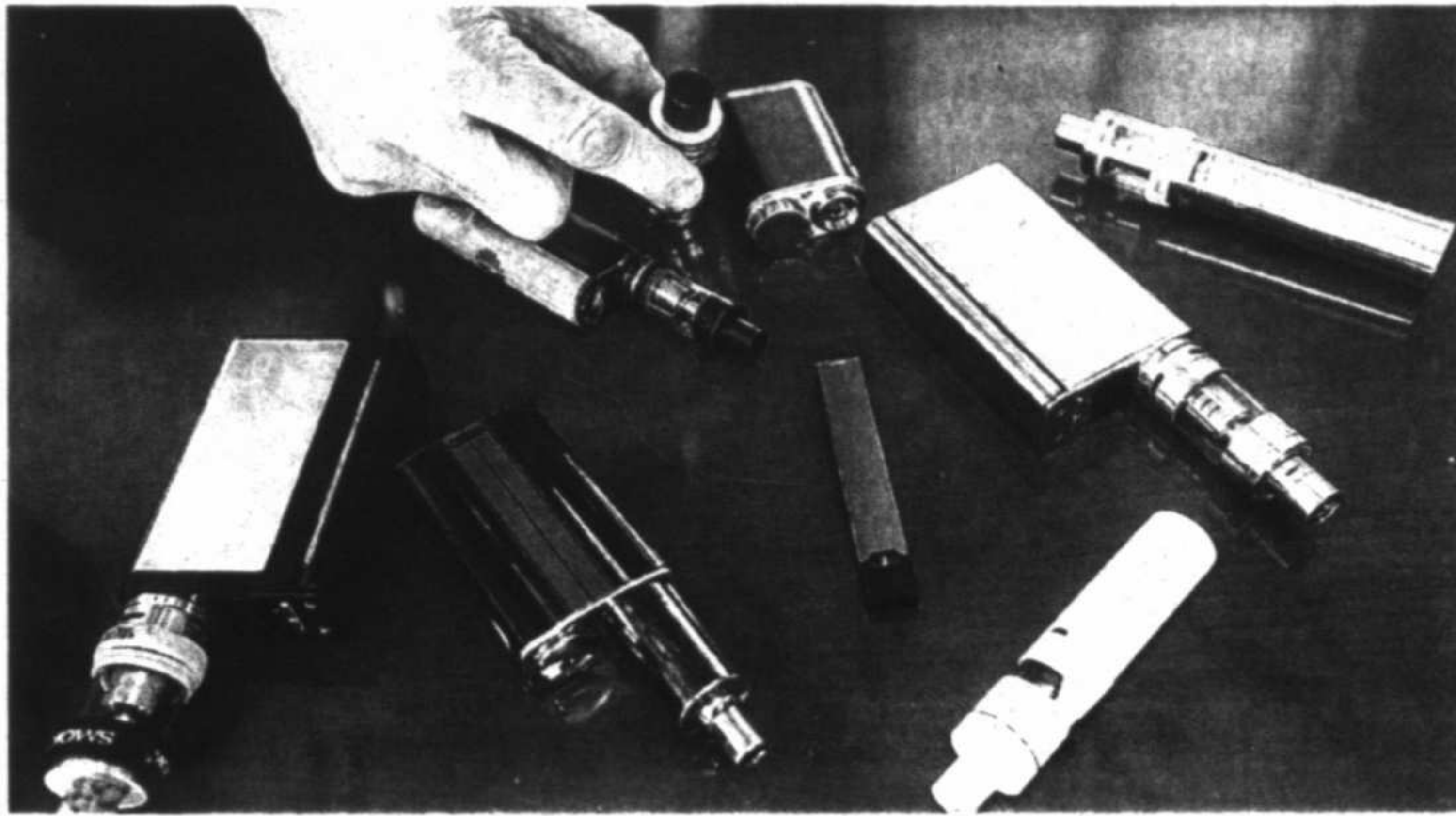
One leading theory is that kids today are staying home and communicating on smartphones rather than hanging out and smoking, drinking or trying drugs.

"Drug experimentation is a group activity," Volkow said. But "vaping mostly is an individual activity," said David Jernigan, a Boston University researcher who tracks alcohol use.

The vaping explosion is a big worry, however. Health officials say nicotine is harmful to developing brains. Some researchers also believe vaping will make kids more likely to take up cigarettes, and perhaps later try other drugs.

So far that hasn't happened, surveys show. But the Juul phenomenon is recent, said Richard Miech, who oversees the Michigan survey.

If vaping does lead to cigarette use among teens, that may start to show up in the survey as early as next year, he said.



Steven Senna/AP

A high school principal displays vaping devices that were confiscated from students in such places as restrooms or hallways April 10 at the school in Massachusetts. The U.S. surgeon general says swift action is needed to prevent millions of teenagers and adolescents from becoming hooked on Juul and other high-nicotine electronic cigarettes. Surgeon General Jerome Adams said on Tuesday that parents, teachers and physicians must take aggressive steps to address an epidemic of underage vaping.

## Surgeon general urges 'aggressive steps' to stop teen vaping

By Matthew Perrone  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government's top doctor is taking aim at the best-selling electronic cigarette brand in the U.S., urging swift action to prevent Juul and similar vaping brands from addicting millions of teenagers.

In an advisory Tuesday, Surgeon General Jerome Adams said parents, teachers, health professionals and government officials must take "aggressive steps" to keep children from using e-cigarettes. Federal law bans the sale of e-cigarettes to those under 18.

For young people, "nicotine is dangerous and it can have negative health effects," Adams said in an interview. "It can impact learning, attention and memory, and it can prime the youth brain for addiction."

Federal officials are scrambling to reverse a recent explosion in teen vaping that public health officials fear could undermine decades of declines in tobacco use. An estimated 3.6 million U.S. teens are now using e-cigarettes, representing 1 in 5 high school

students and 1 in 20 middle schoolers, according to the latest federal figures.

Separate survey results released Monday showed twice as many high school students used e-cigarettes this year compared to last year.

E-cigarettes and other vaping devices have been sold in the U.S. since 2007, growing into a \$6.6 billion business. Most devices heat a flavored nicotine solution into an inhalable vapor. They have been pitched to adult smokers as a less-harmful alternative to cigarettes, though there's been little research on the long-term health effects or on whether they help people quit. Even more worrisome, a growing body of research suggests that teens who vape are more likely to try regular cigarettes.

Adams singled out Silicon Valley startup Juul. The company leaptfrogged over its larger competitors with online promotions portraying their small device as the latest high-tech gadget for hip, attractive young people. Analysts now estimate the company controls more than 75 percent of the U.S. e-cigarette market.

The surgeon general's advisory

notes that each Juul cartridge, or pod, contains as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes. Additionally, Adams said Juul's liquid nicotine mixture is specially formulated to give a smoother, more potent nicotine buzz. That effect poses special risks for young people, he said.

"We do know that these newer products, such as Juul, can promote dependence in just a few uses," Adams said.

Juul said in a statement that it shares the surgeon general's goal: "We are committed to preventing youth access of Juul products."

Last month, San Francisco-based Juul shut down its Facebook and Instagram accounts and halted in-store sales of its flavored pods. The flavors remain available via age-restricted online sales. That voluntary action came days before the Food and Drug Administration proposed industrywide restrictions on online and convenience store sales of e-cigarettes to deter use by kids.

Adams recommends parents, teachers and health professionals learn about e-cigarettes, talk to children about the risks and set an example by not using tobacco products.

**FREE Teen Heart Screening**  
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## Heart Matters

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- CHF screenings are free, a comparable screening in a cardiologist's office would cost approximately \$700.
- 1 in 250 high school students is at risk of a serious cardiac condition known to cause Sudden Cardiac Death.
- Standard sports physical examinations do not include cardiac screenings with ECG and limited ECHO.

### BASIC INFORMATION

- Championship Hearts screens students, ages 14-18, for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM). Generally, one screening after age 15 is sufficient, unless cardiac symptoms are present.
- HCM causes a thickening of the heart wall, and can lead to obstruction of blood flow and an erratic heartbeat.
- HCM typically does not present any symptoms.
- HCM is the leading cause of sudden cardiac death in young people. HCM effects roughly 1 in 500 people.

Cardiovascular disease is the second leading medical cause of death in children and adolescents in the United States.

\* In the United States alone, one young competitive athlete dies every three days from an unrecognized cardiovascular disorder.

\*\* [www.parentheartwatch.org](http://www.parentheartwatch.org)

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Or call: 888-884-6945 or 512-900-3243





# SPORTS

To submit information to the sports department, email [sports@mrt.com](mailto:sports@mrt.com)

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Wednesday, December 19, 2018 | Section C

## Big Spring promotes McWilliams to head coach

By Christopher Hadorn  
[chadorn@mrt.com](mailto:chadorn@mrt.com)

Big Spring is filling its football head coaching vacancy from its internal ranks.

Big Spring ISD announced Tuesday that Steers defensive coordinator Cannon McWilliams has been named head football coach. McWilliams, 32, served the previous two seasons as defensive coordinator under Mitch

McLemore, who was reassigned from his head coaching position in November after going 3-19.

McWilliams is also the son of Big Spring ISD superintendent Jay McWilliams, who was approved to his position in April.



McWilliams

"I'm excited," Cannon McWilliams said. "I'm excited to get started. We have been able to implement a different offseason program the past three weeks. I am just excited to get the opportunity."

Unlike McLemore, McWilliams won't dually serve as Big Spring athletic director after the school district appointed Big Spring High principal Mike Ritchey to the AD position in a

dual capacity earlier this month.

"I've been able to work for Mr. Ritchey the past two years," McWilliams said. "I have seen the pride on what he was doing for the school district. I'm excited to have another mentor. It's a good deal for me, I'm excited about it."

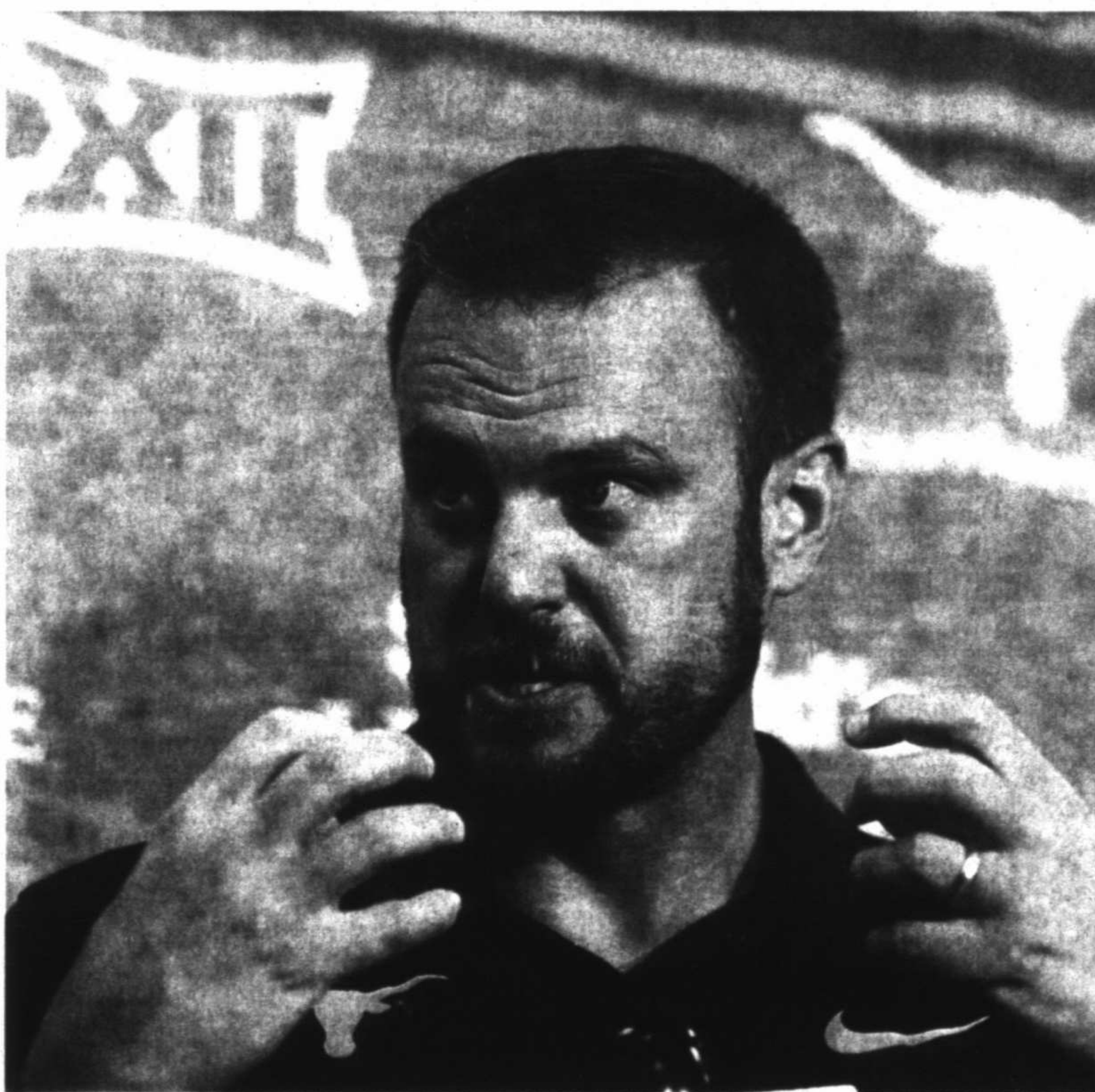
McWilliams will be serving in his first football head coaching position with the Steers. He comes from a football family, as

his father Jay and uncle Chris were former head coaches at McCamey. McWilliams is named for his late grandfather Billy Cannon, who won the 1959 Heisman Trophy as a running back at LSU.

McWilliams was previously the head boys basketball coach at Irion County from 2010-12 and at Sonora from 2015-17. He also

Please see **McWILLIAMS/3C**

## New normal



Eric Gay/AP

Texas head coach Tom Herman responds to a question Aug. 2 during a college football news conference in Austin. The arrival of a December signing period created plenty of uncertainty in last year's recruiting cycle because nobody knew just how many seniors would go ahead and end their college selection process before the winter holidays. "I think all of us coaches would tell you it surprised us that so many kids wanted to get it done and signed in December," Texas coach Tom Herman said.

## Most recruits choosing to sign in December

By Steve Megargee  
*Associated Press*

College football fans used to treat the first Wednesday of February like a virtual national holiday. Now that recruiting ritual and all the madness surrounding it has shifted to December.

Most schools are signing nearly all their incoming recruits the week before Christmas.

The arrival of an early signing period last year enticed the vast majority of last year's top seniors to finalize their college plans in December. Coaches and recruiting analysts expect that pattern to continue for the foreseeable future

and they've planned accordingly.

"I just think everybody sees (December) as the new signing date, in my opinion," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said.

This year's early signing period begins Wednesday and runs through Friday. Seniors also have the option of waiting until the Feb. 6 signing date. ESPN director of recruiting Tom Luginbill said 72 percent of last year's recruiting class signed in December rather than February.

"I would be surprised if that's not closer to 75-80 this time around," Luginbill said.

Please see **RECRUITS/3C**

## Rangers introduce Lance Lynn, finalize \$30M, 3-year deal

By Stephen Hawkins  
*Associated Press*

ARLINGTON — The only time Lance Lynn has pitched in the home ballpark of the Texas Rangers was as a rookie in 2011, during the World Series for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Lynn will now go into that stadium's final season in 2019 as a big part of the Texas rotation. He signed a \$30 million, three-year contract with the Rangers, who are coming off consecutive losing seasons for the first time since before their back-to-back World Series appearances.

"That was my rookie year, I was just happy to be there. I'm not going to hold it over anybody," Lynn said, recalling that 2011 World Series the Cardinals won in seven games.

The Rangers introduced Lynn on Tuesday, completing a deal that was reached last week during the winter meetings subject to a successful physical. The 31-year-old righty is 21-18 with a 4.04 ERA in 64 games over the past two seasons since missing all of 2016 following Tommy John surgery.

"I feel strong, and it's been a while since I've felt that way," Lynn said. "I think you say that in the second half of last year. Hopefully, I can keep that going."

Lynn's deal includes a \$4 million signing bonus, of which \$3 million is payable next year and \$1 million for 2020. He has salaries of \$8 million in 2019, \$10 million in 2020 and \$8 million in 2021.

"We look at his track record. Extremely consistent, durable, winning performer on a major league stage," general manager Jon Daniels said. "A veteran presence that we're excited to add to the ballclub."

He joins a rotation with returning Mike Minor and two veterans coming off Tommy John surgery, Edinson Volquez and Drew Smyly.

Lynn is 82-57 with a 3.57 ERA in 214 games with St. Louis, Minnesota and the New York Yankees since 2011, and has won at least 10 games every year as a regular starter since after his rookie season. After not signing with the Twins until mid-March last year, he was 7-8 with a 5.10 ERA in 20 starts before a trade deadline deal to the Yankees. He went 3-2 with a 4.14 ERA in 11 appearances (nine starts) for New York.

"He was very, very effective in the American League. Very good against right-handers, which our division is chock full of," Daniels



Lynn

Please see **RANGERS/4C**

## Chargers lead Pro Bowl selections with 7 players

*The Associated Press*

NEW YORK — The Los Angeles Chargers placed seven players in the Pro Bowl, including safety Derwin James, one of six rookies across the league to make the game.

James, a first-round draft choice, will be joined on the AFC squad by veteran quarterback Philip Rivers, wide receiver Keenan Allen, running back Melvin Gordon, defensive end Melvin Ingram, center Mike Pouncey and special-teamer Adrian Phillips for the game, which will be played Jan. 27 in Orlando. James and Phillips are the only starters, though.

Rivers is a backup to Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes, one of 29 first-time Pro Bowlers. That, of course, includes all the rookies: James, Giants running back Saquon Barkley, Seahawks punter Michael Dickson, Broncos running back Phillip Lindsay, Indianapolis guard Quenton Nelson and Cleveland cornerback Denzel Wads. Lindsay is an

undrafted player.

New England's Tom Brady is the other AFC quarterback, making it for the 14th time. Noticeably missing is the Colts' Andrew Luck.

New Orleans, led by quarterback Drew Brees, Dallas and Chicago paced the NFC with five players each. Brees is the starter, backed up by Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers and the Rams' Jared Goff.

Buffalo, Oakland and Tampa Bay had no Pro Bowl selections.

Pittsburgh and Kansas City each had six players chosen, including such first-timers as Steelers running back James Conner and Mahomes, both having breakthrough years.

Cleveland has a first overall draft choice in the game — not Baker Mayfield, but 2017 top pick Myles Garrett at defensive end.

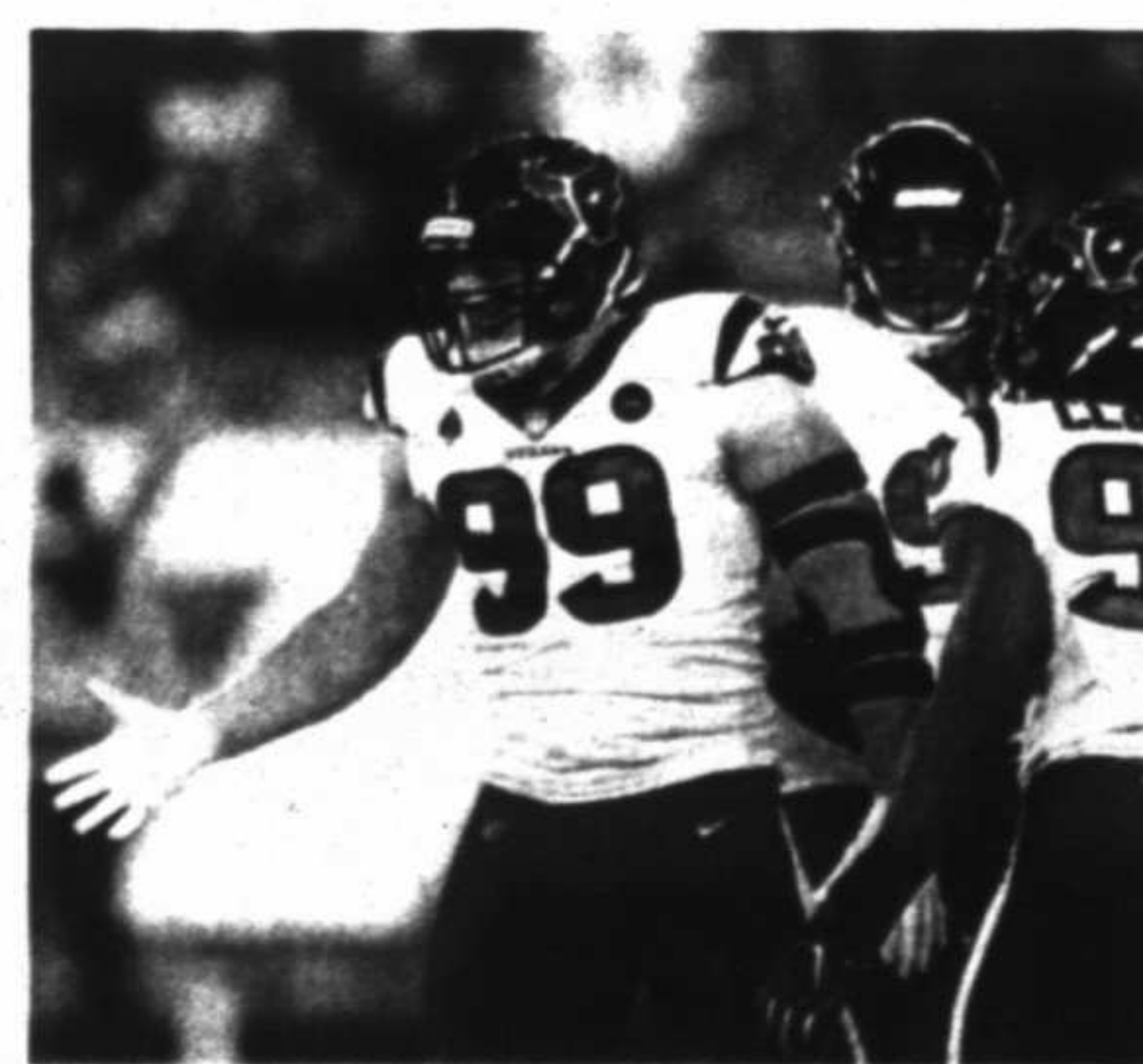
"Football is a team game and you can't do it on your own," said Garrett, who leads the Browns with 12½ sacks. "I'm happy to be able to share this experience with Denzel because

this honor is really a testament to our entire defense."

Among the perennial AFC choices returning to the game are Houston DE J.J. Watt, Pittsburgh WR Antonio Brown, Baltimore guard Marshal Yanda and safety Eric Weddle, Cincinnati DT Geno Atkins and Denver LB Von Miller.

"To get recognized by your peers, the coaches and the fans, it means a lot," Weddle said. "It's always special to put in the hard work and to try your best and then get recognized. The Pro Bowl is something I never take for granted, and I'm pretty stoked about it. Each year you just work hard and try to play your very best. To receive recognition for what you do on the field, even if it may not show up in other areas, is awesome."

For the NFC, frequent repeaters include Atlanta WR Julio Jones and C Alex Mack, Dallas tackle Tyrone Smith, inside LBs Luke Kuechly of



Bill Kestrom/AP

Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt (99) celebrates with teammates after sacking New York Jets quarterback Sam Darnold, not pictured, during the first half of an NFL game, Dec. 15 in East Rutherford, N.J.

Please see **PRO BOWL/3C**



## DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

## ON THE AIR

**College Basketball**  
St. Francis-Brooklyn at St. John's, 5:30 p.m., FS2  
Sacred Heart at Seton Hall, 5:30 p.m., FS2  
Auburn at NC State, 6 p.m., ESPN2  
Virginia at South Carolina, 6 p.m., SEC  
Central Arkansas at Indiana, 6 p.m., BTN  
UNC Central at St. Louis, 7 p.m., FCSA  
UIW at DePaul, 7:30 p.m., FS2  
UCLA at Cincinnati, 8 p.m., ESPN2  
Georgia Tech at Arkansas, 8 p.m., SEC

**College Football**  
Frisco Bowl: San Diego State vs. Ohio, 7 p.m., ESPN  
High School Football  
UIL Class 2A Division II Championship: Gruver vs. Mart, 7 p.m., FSSW, FCSA  
**Men's Soccer**  
FIFA Club World Cup Semifinal: Real Madrid vs. Kashima Antlers, 10:20 a.m., FS2  
Bundesliga: FC Bayern Munich vs. RB Leipzig, 1:30 p.m., FS1  
Bundesliga: 1. FSV Mainz 05 vs. Eintracht Frankfurt, 1:30 p.m., FS1

p.m., FS2  
**National Basketball Association**  
San Antonio at Orlando, 6 p.m., FSSW+  
Phoenix at Boston, 6:30 p.m., NBA TV  
Washington at Houston, 7 p.m., ATTSW  
Oklahoma City at Sacramento, 9 p.m., NBA TV  
**NBA G League**  
Memphis vs. Raptors 905, 2 p.m., ESPN  
Austin vs. Capital City, 2:30 p.m., NBA TV  
Maine vs. Lakeland, 4:30 p.m., ESPN  
Northern Arizona vs. Windy City, 9:30 p.m., ESPN  
**National Hockey League**  
Pittsburgh at Washington, 7 p.m., NBCSN  
**Women's College Basketball**  
UConn at Oklahoma, 7:30 p.m., FS1

**RADIO**  
**National Basketball Association**  
San Antonio at Orlando, 6 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

## TRANSACTIONS

**BASEBALL**  
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE — Announced the resignation of executive vice president Chris Park.  
**AMERICAN LEAGUE**  
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Signed OF Ruben Starling, 1B Sam Dineen and RHP Jason Adam to minor league contracts.  
TEXAS RANGERS — Signed RHP Lance Lynn to a three-year contract.  
**NATIONAL LEAGUE**  
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with 1B Matt Adams on a one-year contract.  
**BASKETBALL**  
National Basketball Association  
NBA — Fined Toronto coach Nick Nurse \$15,000 for public criticism of officiating.  
WASHINGTON WIZARDS — Assigned F Othello Harris to Capital City (NBA G League).  
CHICAGO BULLS — Reacquired G Devin Sweetney.  
DALLAS WINGS — Named Brian Agler coach.  
**FOOTBALL**  
National Football League  
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed OL

Kyle Friend to the practice squad.  
TENNESSEE TITANS — Placed CB Logan Ryan on injured reserve. Signed CB Kevin Smith to the practice squad and LB Calvin Johnson to the practice squad.  
CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
EDMONTON SKIRMISH — Signed DB Robert Poirier and OL Damien Maddy.  
SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS — Signed OL Zack Evans to a four-year contract extension.  
WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Signed OL Matthew Ouellet and Ben Koczwara.  
**HOCKEY**  
American Hockey League  
AHL — Succeeded Grant Rapier F Matt Puempel two games and Brogdon F Stephen Gionta three games.  
SOUTH CAROLINA STRINGERS — Traded F Bo Brouwer to Atlanta for future considerations.  
**OLYMPIC SPORTS**  
U.S. ANTI-DOPING AGENCY — Named Skip Gilbert managing director of operations, marketing and development.  
**SOCCER**  
Major League Soccer  
LA GALAXY — Signed F Zlatan Ibrahimovic and M Juninho.

## HS FOOTBALL

**UIL Football State Championships**  
AT&T Stadium, Arlington  
Today  
Conference 1A San Mar Division II — Fossil 12-21 vs. Liberty Hill 12-21, 11 a.m.  
Conference 1A San Mar Division I — McLean 14-0 vs. Midland 12-21, 2 p.m.  
Conference 2A Division II — Gruver 14-1 vs. Mart 14-1, 7 p.m.  
Thursday  
Conference 2A Division I — New Deal 15-0 vs. Mason 15-0, 11 a.m.  
Conference 4A Division II — Canyon 14-1 vs. Newton 14-0, 3 p.m.  
Conference 4A Division I — Maxwell 12-2 vs. Grandview 13-2, 7 p.m.

**Friday**  
Conference 4A Division I — Teahua Press 15-0 vs. Glen Rose 14-1, 11 a.m.  
Conference 4A Division II — Waco La Vega 13-2 vs. Liberty Hill 13-2, 3 p.m.  
Conference 5A Division I — Austin 15-0 vs. Fossil 15-0, 7 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
Conference 5A Division II — Dallas Highland Park 15-0 vs. Allen Shadow Creek 15-0, 11 a.m.  
Conference 6A Division I — Longview 15-0 vs. Beaumont West Bend 13-2, 3 p.m.  
Conference 6A Division II — Duncaneville 14-0 vs. Gena Park North Shore 15-0, 7 p.m.

## NBA GLANCE

| EASTERN CONFERENCE |    |    |      |       | WESTERN CONFERENCE |    |    |      |       |
|--------------------|----|----|------|-------|--------------------|----|----|------|-------|
| Team               | W  | L  | Pct  | GB    | Team               | W  | L  | Pct  | GB    |
| Toronto            | 23 | 9  | .719 | —     | Golden State       | 21 | 10 | .677 | —     |
| Philadelphia       | 20 | 12 | .625 | 3     | L.A. Lakers        | 18 | 12 | .600 | 2 1/2 |
| Boston             | 18 | 14 | .563 | 5     | L.A. Clippers      | 17 | 13 | .563 | 3 1/2 |
| Brooklyn           | 13 | 18 | .419 | 9 1/2 | Sacramento         | 16 | 14 | .533 | 4 1/2 |
| New York           | 9  | 23 | .281 | 14    | Phoenix            | 7  | 24 | .226 | 14    |

| Atlantic Division |    |    |      |       | Pacific Division |    |    |      |       |
|-------------------|----|----|------|-------|------------------|----|----|------|-------|
| Team              | W  | L  | Pct  | GB    | Team             | W  | L  | Pct  | GB    |
| Charlotte         | 14 | 15 | .483 | —     | Golden State     | 21 | 10 | .677 | —     |
| Orlando           | 14 | 15 | .483 | —     | L.A. Lakers      | 18 | 12 | .600 | 2 1/2 |
| Miami             | 13 | 16 | .448 | 1     | L.A. Clippers    | 17 | 13 | .563 | 3 1/2 |
| Washington        | 12 | 18 | .400 | 2 1/2 | Sacramento       | 16 | 14 | .533 | 4 1/2 |
| Atlanta           | 6  | 23 | .207 | 8     | Phoenix          | 7  | 24 | .226 | 14    |

| Central Division |    |    |      |        | Southwest Division |    |    |      |       |
|------------------|----|----|------|--------|--------------------|----|----|------|-------|
| Team             | W  | L  | Pct  | GB     | Team               | W  | L  | Pct  | GB    |
| Minnesota        | 20 | 9  | .690 | —      | Dallas             | 15 | 13 | .536 | —     |
| Indiana          | 20 | 10 | .667 | 1/2    | Memphis            | 15 | 14 | .517 | —     |
| Detroit          | 14 | 14 | .500 | 5 1/2  | Houston            | 16 | 15 | .516 | 1/2   |
| Cleveland        | 7  | 23 | .233 | 19 1/2 | San Antonio        | 15 | 16 | .484 | 1 1/2 |
| Chicago          | 7  | 24 | .226 | 20     | New Orleans        | 15 | 16 | .484 | 1 1/2 |

| Northwest Division |    |    |      |       | Today's Games                    |   |   |     |    |
|--------------------|----|----|------|-------|----------------------------------|---|---|-----|----|
| Team               | W  | L  | Pct  | GB    | Team                             | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Denver             | 20 | 9  | .690 | —     | Cleveland at Charlotte, 6 p.m.   |   |   |     |    |
| Oklahoma City      | 19 | 10 | .655 | 1/2   | New York at Philadelphia, 6 p.m. |   |   |     |    |
| Portland           | 17 | 13 | .563 | 3 1/2 | San Antonio at Dallas, 6 p.m.    |   |   |     |    |
| Minnesota          | 14 | 16 | .467 | 6 1/2 | Indiana at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.    |   |   |     |    |

## NHL GLANCE

**New Hires**

**Angel Fin** — **Wined 5:44** an machine groomed 15-18 times 2 of 78 lbs. **Mon-Fri** Sat **Su** 9a-5p  
**Mon-Fri** Sat **Su** 9a-5p **Su** 9a-5p  
**Paigette** — **Plan** to **Open 12/21** an **Mon-Fri**  
**Mon-Fri** Sat **Su** 9a-5p

**Mon-Fri** — **Wined 7:59** an machine groomed 24-24 lbs. **Open 6/30** 40% **open**, 5 of 7 lbs. an

**Sandra Peak** — **Plan** to **Open 12/22** **Mon-Fri**  
**Su** 9a-5p **Su** 9a-5p

**Stephan** — **Wined 6:07** an **pastured** groomed 17-23 lbs. **Mon-Fri** Sat **Su** 9a-5p  
4 of 6 lbs. **Mon-Fri** Sat **Su** 9a-5p

**Sti Apache** — **Wined 7:54** an machine groomed 28-28 lbs 5 of 56 lbs. **open** 3% of 10 lbs. an **Mon-Fri** Sat **Su** 9a-5p  
groomed 17-23 lbs. **Mon-Fri** Sat **Su** 9a-5p  
groomed 30-30 lbs 75 of 69 lbs  
90% **open**, 6 of 7 lbs. an **Mon-Fri** Sat **Su** 9a-5p

**Tara** — **Wined 5:04** an machine groomed 29-31 lbs 10 of 110 lbs. 40% **open** 1 of 15 lbs. an

**Aspen Bees** — Wed 5:17 am packed powder 34-44 machine 99-94 119 lbs 145  
9:45 Sat 9:45 119 lbs 9:45 119 lbs  
9:45 Sat 9:45 119 lbs 9:45 119 lbs

**Aspen Highlands** — Wed 5:45 am packed powder 31-44 109 of 122 lbs 90% open  
974 cars, 5 of 5 Mts. Mon-Fri 9:30-30 Sat  
Sun 9:30-30

**Aspen Mountain** — Wed 5:25 am packed powder machine ground 23-45 lbs 95 of 74  
90% open, 90% open, 6 of 8 Mts. Mon-Fri  
9:30-30 Sat 9:30-30

**Baker Creek** — Wed 6:05 am machine ground 27-27 lbs 111 of 150 lbs 74% open  
1348 cars, 23 of 25 Mts. Mon-Fri 9:30-30 Sat  
Sun 9:30-30

**Bendbridge** — Wed 6:18 am machine ground 36-36 lbs 169 of 187 lbs 81% open  
2503 cars, 32 of 35 Mts. Mon-Fri 9:30-30 Sat  
Sun 9:30-30

**Butterfield** — Wed 5:44 am packed powder 16-17 lbs 32 of 44 lbs 95% open, 416 lbs, 7

## SKI REPORT

**New Mexico**  
Angel Fire — Wed 5:44 a.m. machine groomed 18-18 base 21 of 78 trails 41% open, 6 of 7 lifts. Mon-Thurs 8:40 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sat-Sun 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Purgatoire — Plan to Open 12/21 on Mon-Fri 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Red River — Wed 7:00 a.m. machine groomed 24-24 base 29 of 63 trails 40% open, 5 of 7 lifts. Sat-Sun 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Sandoz Peak — Plan to Open 12/22 Mon-Fri 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Ski Apache — Wed 5:44 a.m. machine groomed 27-27 base 11 of 150 trails 74% open, 13 of 19 lifts. Sat-Sun 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Ski Apache — Wed 5:44 a.m. machine groomed 29-29 base 5 of 66 trails, 9% open 9 of 19 lifts, on Mon-Fri 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sat-Sun 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Ski Apache — Wed 5:44 a.m. machine groomed 29-29 base 5 of 66 trails, 9% open 9 of 19 lifts, on Mon-Fri 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sat-Sun 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
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**Arizona**  
Apache Basin — Wed 5:17 a.m. packed powder machine groomed 34-34 base 119 of 145 trails 82% open, 119 of 145 lifts, 9 of 9 lifts. Mon-Fri 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sat-Sun 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Superstition — Wed 5:45 a.m. packed powder 31-44 base 100 of 122 trails 80% open, 974 of 974 lifts, 5 of 5 lifts. Mon-Fri 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sat-Sun 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Superstition — Wed 5:45 a.m. packed powder machine groomed 23-27 base 55 of 76 trails 90% open, 618 of 618 lifts, 6 of 6 lifts. Mon-Fri 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sat-Sun 8:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
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## 3 area players make APSE Class 4A all-state team

Staff reports and the Associated Press

Greenwood junior wide receiver Brody Ray, Greenwood junior offensive lineman Jayden Kitchens and Andrews senior defensive lineman Jacob Mechler were recognized as honorable mention selections on the 2018 Texas Associated Press Sports Editors Class 4A all-state high school football team, released Tuesday.

Ray had 37 catches for 771 yards and 17 TDs in 10 regular season games. Kitchens tallied 55 pancake blocks for the Rangers, and Mechler recorded

98 tackles, 21 tackles for loss and six sacks for the Mustangs.

Voting based on regular-season performance. Players are listed in alphabetical order at each position.

**FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE**  
Quarterback — Caden Jander, Cullen, Sr. — 84 pan-cakes, no sacks allowed for team that averaged 50 points and 410 yds.  
Running backs — JOHNNY TAYLOR, WF Hirsch, Jr. — 97% grade, 81 knockdowns, 2 sacks allowed for team that averaged 374 yds. yds.  
Tanner Wilson, Canyon, Sr. — 96% grade, 37 pan-cakes for team that rushed for 227 yds.  
Receivers — BEAU BEDFORD, Decatur, Sr. — 83-1,238, 14 TDs.  
Wide receivers — DEMOND DEMAS, Houston North Forest, Jr. — 49-1,574, 12 TDs, 2 sacks returned for TDs.  
Quarterback — CAMERON GRIFFIN, Glen Rose, Sr. — 153-250-2,788 passing, 40 TDs, 611 yards rushing, 9 TDs.  
Running backs — DAMARQUA FOSTER, WF Hirsch, Sr. — 2,083 rushing yards, 31 TDs.  
Quarterback — QUINN JACOBSON, FW Bentons, Jr. — 15,722, 3,017 yards, 37 TDs.  
Wide receivers — JAYVEON SUNDY, Waco Connally, Jr. — 254 carries for 2,054 yards, 30 TDs.  
Tight end — AH LEE, Waco Connally, Jr. — 43-43, 19 TDs, 43 TDs, 43 TDs, 43 TDs.  
Offensive Player of the Year: Damarquas Foster, WF Hirsch.

**FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE**  
Linebacker — DALTON BILLS, Bellevue, Jr. — 120 tackles, 20 sacks, 18 TDs, 11 sacks, 5 blocked kicks, 1 FT.  
Linebacker — ABEL EUCEDA, Gilmer, Sr. — 117 tackles, 5 sacks, 14 TDs, 2 FT.  
Linebacker — JAYDEN KITCHENS, Greenwood, Jr. — 96 tackles, 15 TDs, 14 sacks, 4 FT, 3 PBU.  
Linebacker — COLLIN ONEAL, Mesquite, Sr. — 97 tackles, 28 TDs, 6 sacks, 4 FT, 4 PBU.  
Linebacker — MONTE CLUCK, Boone, Sr. — 147 tackles, 18 sacks, 28 TDs, 10 sacks, 3 FT, 3 FT.  
Linebacker — GARRETT REDDEN, Seely, Jr. — 150 tackles, 7 TDs, 3 sacks, 2 sacks.  
Linebacker — CARSON SMITH, Doherty, Sr. — 150 tackles, 8 sacks, 3 FT.  
Defensive backs — KEVIN DAVIS, Freerport, Sr. — 9 INTs, 156 tackles, 5 PBU.  
Defensive backs — JOHNNY ESPINOSA, San Angelo Lake View, Jr. — 11 INTs, 9 PBU.  
Defensive backs — JULIO ROGGS, Boone, Sr. — 10 INTs, 66 tackles.  
Defensive backs — XAVIER RODRIGUEZ, Lewisville, Sr. — 138 tackles, 26 TDs, 4 sacks, 3 INTs, 7 FT.  
Punter — ANTHONY CATATE, El Campo, Sr. — 38-9 avg., 24 punts.  
Defensive Player of the Year: Monte Cluck, Boone.

**SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE**  
Linebacker — Marcus Alexander, Sunnyvale, Sr. — Justin Montgomery, Liberty Hill, Sr. — Brandon Nunez, Cullen, Sr. — Garrison Stewart, Graham, Sr. — Preston Wilson, Arville, Sr.  
Receivers — Dalton Carter, Arville, Sr. — Craig Cammons, CC West, Sr.  
Quarterback — Clayton Chaddock, La Verna, Sr.  
Running backs — Andrew Bassant, Andrews, Sr. — Seth Dixon, Hensley, Sr. — Kyle Harrison, Liberty Hill, Sr.  
Tight end — Adam Bass, Cullen, Sr.  
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Linebacker — Ben Belandier, Lewisville, Jr. — Grayson Mayhew, Bellevue, Jr. — Jayden Hensley, Wharton, Jr. — Dorian Rhodes, Lubbock Estacado, Jr. — Justin Johnson, Lubbock Estacado, Jr.  
Linebacker — Bu Carter, Seely, Sr. — Rayson Ingram, Carthage, Jr. — Chase Peltier, Arville, Sr.  
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**Boys**  
MHS 81  
GRADY 39  
LENORAH — Brett Canis scored 16 points, Rahkhem Peterson had 15 points. Nathaniel Rodriguez scored 11 and Gage Wilman added 10 to lead Midland High to a rout of Grady in non-district play. Jordan Rodriguez led the Wildcats with 17 points. Leading 32-20 at halftime, the Bulldogs outscored Grady, 39-19, in the second half.

**Girls**  
MHS 61  
COOPER 60  
ABILENE — Tayshah Rushton scored a game-high 23 points to help Midland High squeak past Abilene Cooper in non-district play. Sadie Govan had 14 points and Teshia Defady added 10 points for the Lady Bulldogs (11-8), who return to play when they host the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic Dec. 27.

**ANDREWS 65**  
**ODESSA HIGH 58**  
Midland High — Jamarion Ingram 5, Demond Williams 2, Adrian Lopez 2, Adrian Lopez 15, Na'el Rodriguez 11, Daniel Shenton 6, Nicholas Ramirez 6, Sean Krongauz 2, Brett Canis 16.  
Grady — Brandon Peterson 4, Charles Cassel 6, Sergio Rayna 6, Cole Short 3, Marshall Cox 3, Jordan Rodriguez 17.  
Midland — 17 15 19 20 — 61  
Grady — 8 12 8 11 — 39  
3-point goals: MHS 6 (Peterson 3, Ingram 3, Shenton 3, Ramirez 3, Krongauz 3, Canis 3). Grady 2 (Short 2, Rodriguez 2). Free throws: MHS 5-10. Grady 12-26. Total fouls: MHS 24. Grady 9 fouled out — None.  
Next: Midland High vs. Franco Carrasco, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 27 in Byron Johnston Holiday Classic at Chapman Center.

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# Ohio takes on slumping San Diego State

By The Associated Press

**Frisco Bowl:** San Diego St. (7-5) vs. Ohio (8-4), Wednesday, 8 p.m. EST (ESPN)

**Line:** Ohio by 3.

**Series Record:** First meeting

**WHAT'S AT STAKE**

Ohio and San Diego State have gotten to their bowl on different streaks. The Bobcats of the MAC have won two in a row and five of their last six. They are also trying to win a bowl for the second season in a row. The Aztecs from the Mountain West have lost five of six games, and their last three, since a six-game winning streak. San Diego State has never had a four-game losing streak in the same season in their eight years with coach Rocky Long.

**KEY MATCHUP**

Ohio running back A.J. Ouellette against All-Mountain West lineback-

er Kyahva Tezino and the rest of San Diego State's front seven. The Aztecs are fourth among FBS teams allowing 94.5 yards rushing per game. Ouellette has averaged 178 yards rushing over his last three games, and has at least 135 yards in four of the last five games.

**PLAYERS TO WATCH**

**San Diego State:** Tezino, the junior linebacker, has 120 tackles, including 14 1/2 tackles for loss with 8 1/2 sacks.

**Ohio:** Junior QB Nathan Rourke has thrown for 2,228 yards and 22 touchdowns (with seven interceptions), and run for 816 yards and a team-high 13 TDs, one more than Ouellette.

**FACTS & FIGURES**

With the retirement of 79-year-old Kansas State coach Bill Snyder, Ohio's Frank Solich is now the oldest

FBS coach at 74. Long turns 69 in

January. (Coastal Carolina coach Joe Moglia is already 69). ... The Aztecs fell short of a third straight 10-win season. ... San Diego State is 13-0-1 against MAC schools. ... Ouellette, a senior, is only the fourth Bobcats player with multiple 1,000-yard seasons. ... The Aztecs are making their 10th bowl appearance in 14 seasons under Solich, who replaced Tom Osborne at Nebraska in 1998 and spent six seasons as head coach of the Cornhuskers. ... This is the ninth year in a row in a bowl for the Aztecs, who are playing their second consecutive bowl in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. They lost 42-35 to Army in the Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth last December. ... This only the second Frisco Bowl. It is played in the pro soccer stadium that also hosts the FCS national championship game.

## COLLEGE BOWL GLANCE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Saturday, Dec. 15**  
**Celebration Bowl**  
 N.C. A&T 24, Akron State 22  
**New Mexico Bowl**  
 Albuquerque 52, North Texas 13  
**Care Bowl**  
 Orlando, Fla.  
 Tulane 41, Louisiana-Lafayette 24  
**Las Vegas Bowl**  
 Fresno State 31, Arizona State 20  
**Camellia Bowl**  
 Montgomery Ala.  
 Georgia Southern 23, Eastern Michigan 21  
**New Orleans Bowl**  
 Appalachian State 45, Middle Tennessee 13  
**Tuesday, Dec. 18**  
**Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl**  
 North Texas (8-5) vs. UAB (10-3), 10 p.m. EST  
**Wednesday, Dec. 19**  
**Frisco (Texas) Bowl**  
 Ohio (8-4) vs. San Diego State (7-5), 8 p.m. EST  
**Thursday, Dec. 20**  
**Gatorade Bowl**  
 Marshall (8-4) vs. South Florida (7-5), 8 p.m. EST  
**Friday, Dec. 21**  
**Bahamas Bowl**  
 Toledo (7-5) vs. FIU (8-4), 12:30 p.m. EST  
**Famous Idaho Potato Bowl**  
 Boise  
 Western Michigan (7-5) vs. BYU (8-4), 4 p.m. EST  
**Saturday, Dec. 22**  
**Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl**  
 Memphis (8-5) vs. Wake Forest (8-4), Noon EST  
**Armed Forces Bowl**  
 Fort Worth  
 Army (9-2) vs. Houston (8-4), 3:30 p.m. EST

**Dollar General Bowl**  
 Mobile, Ala.  
 Buffalo (10-3) vs. Troy (9-3), 7 p.m. EST  
**Naval Bowl**  
 Norfolk  
 Louisiana Tech (7-5) vs. Hawaii (8-5), 10:30 p.m. EST  
**Wednesday, Dec. 26**  
**SERVPRO First Responder Bowl**  
 Dallas  
 Boise State (10-3) vs. Eastern College (7-5), 1:30 p.m. EST  
**Quick Lane Bowl**  
 Detroit  
 Georgia Tech (7-5) vs. Minnesota (8-4), 5:15 p.m. EST  
**Chesapeake Bowl**  
 Phoenix  
 TCU (8-4) vs. California (7-5), 9 p.m. EST  
**Thursday, Dec. 27**  
**Independence Bowl**  
 Shreveport, La.  
 Duke (7-5) vs. Tulane (8-4), 1:30 p.m. EST  
**Plumtree Bowl**  
 Bronx, N.Y.  
 Miami (7-5) vs. Wisconsin (7-5), 5:15 p.m. EST  
**Texas Bowl**  
 Houston  
 Baylor (8-4) vs. Vanderbilt (8-4), 8 p.m. EST  
**Friday, Dec. 28**  
**Music City Bowl**  
 Nashville, Tenn.  
 Purdue (8-4) vs. Auburn (7-5), 1:30 p.m. EST  
**Camping World Bowl**  
 Orlando, Fla.  
 Syracuse (9-3) vs. West Virginia (8-5), 5:15 p.m. EST  
**Alamo Bowl**  
 San Antonio  
 Iowa State (8-4) vs. Washington State (10-2), 9 p.m. EST

**Peach Bowl**  
 Atlanta  
 Florida (9-3) vs. Michigan (10-2), Noon EST  
**Bell Bowl**  
 Charlotte, N.C.  
 Virginia (7-5) vs. South Carolina (7-5), Noon EST  
**Arizona Bowl**  
 Tucson, Ariz.  
 Nevada (7-5) vs. Arkansas State (8-4), 1:15 p.m. EST  
**Cotton Bowl Classic**  
 Arlington  
 CFP Semifinal: Clemson (13-0) vs. Notre Dame (12-0), 4 p.m. EST  
**Orange Bowl**  
 Miami Gardens, Fla.  
 CFP Semifinal: Alabama (13-0) vs. Oklahoma (12-1), 8 p.m. EST  
**Monday, Dec. 31**  
**Military Bowl**  
 Annapolis, Md.  
 Virginia Tech (8-4) vs. Cincinnati (10-2), Noon EST  
**Sun Bowl**  
 El Paso, Texas  
 Pittsburgh (7-5) vs. Stanford (8-4), 2 p.m. EST  
**Radio City Bowl**  
 Santa Clara, Calif.  
 Michigan State (7-5) vs. Oregon (8-4), 3 p.m. EST  
**Liberty Bowl**  
 Memphis, Tenn.  
 Oklahoma State (8-4) vs. Missouri (8-4), 3:45 p.m. EST  
**Holiday Bowl**  
 San Diego  
 Northwestern (8-5) vs. Utah (9-4), 7 p.m. EST  
**Gator Bowl**  
 Jacksonville, Fla.  
 Texas A&M (8-4) vs. NC State (9-3), 7:30 p.m. EST

**Tuesday, Jan. 1**  
**Outback Bowl**  
 Tampa, Fla.  
 Iowa (8-4) vs. Mississippi State (8-4), Noon EST  
**Citrus Bowl**  
 Orlando, Fla.  
 Penn State (9-3) vs. Kentucky (9-3), 1 p.m. EST  
**Florida Bowl**  
 Glendale, Ariz.  
 LSU (9-3) vs. UCF (12-0), 1 p.m. EST  
**Rose Bowl**  
 Pasadena, Calif.  
 Ohio State (12-1) vs. Washington (10-3), 5 p.m. EST  
**Sugar Bowl**  
 New Orleans  
 Texas (8-4) vs. Georgia (11-2), 8:30 p.m. EST  
**Monday, Jan. 7**  
**College Football Championship**  
 Santa Clara, Calif.  
 Cotton Bowl winner vs. Orange Bowl winner, 8 p.m. EST  
**Saturday, Jan. 19**  
**East-West Shrine Classic**  
 At St. Petersburg, Fla.  
 East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN)  
**NFL College Bowl**  
 At Pasadena, Calif.  
 American vs. National, TBA (NFLN)  
**Saturday, Jan. 26**  
**Senior Bowl**  
 At Mobile, Ala.  
 North vs. South, 2:30 p.m. (NFLN)

## PRO BOWL

From 1C

Carolina and Bobby Wagner of Seattle, Arizona CB Patrick Peterson, Rams DT Aaron Donald and Bears LB Khalil Mack.

One of the newcomers, Chicago DT Akiem Hicks, sounded overwhelmed by the honor.

"I have played the game of football my entire life and this is the greatest accolade I've ever achieved," he said.

There will be a brother combination at center for the AFC as Maurice Pouncey of Pittsburgh is the starter ahead of Mike Pouncey.

The Jets, despite a 4-10 record, have three Pro Bowlers in safety Jamal Adams, kicker Jason Myers and return specialist Andre Roberts — all first-timers.

Pro Bowl coaching staffs will be from the losing teams in the AFC and NFC divisional playoffs with the best regular-season records. Each player on the winning Pro Bowl team receives \$67,000, while

each player on the losing squad earns \$34,000.

2018 Pro Bowl Rosters

To Be Held: Sunday, Jan. 27

At Camping World Stadium

Orlando, Fla.

(kickoff at 1:00 p.m.)

AFC

Quarterback: Tom Brady, New England

Running Back: Eric Decker, Indianapolis

Wide Receiver: Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay

Tight End: Eric Ebron, Indianapolis

Offensive Line: Matt Ryan, Atlanta

Defensive Line: Aaron Donald, Rams

Linebacker: Khalil Mack, Bears

Cornerback: Stephon Gilmore, New England

Safety: Eric Ebron, Indianapolis

Kicker: Adam Vinatieri, Colts

Punter: Matt Ryan, Atlanta

Special Teams: Adam Vinatieri, Colts

NFC

Quarterback: Deshaun Watson, Houston

Running Back: Ezekiel Elliott, Dallas

Wide Receiver: Mike Evans, Tampa Bay

Tight End: Travis Kelce, Kansas City

Offensive Line: Matt Ryan, Atlanta

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Bill Kesterson/AP

Houston Texans wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins makes a touchdown catch on a pass from quarterback Deshaun Watson, pictured during the first half of an NFL football game against the New York Jets Dec. 15 in East Rutherford, N.J.

**Quarterback:** Deshaun Watson, Houston  
**Running Back:** Ezekiel Elliott, Dallas  
**Wide Receiver:** Mike Evans, Tampa Bay  
**Tight End:** Travis Kelce, Kansas City  
**Offensive Line:** Matt Ryan, Atlanta  
**Defensive Line:** Aaron Donald, Rams  
**Linebacker:** Khalil Mack, Bears  
**Cornerback:** Stephon Gilmore, New England  
**Safety:** Eric Ebron, Indianapolis  
**Kicker:** Adam Vinatieri, Colts  
**Punter:** Matt Ryan, Atlanta  
**Special Teams:** Adam Vinatieri, Colts

## NFL GLANCE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East  
 New England 9 5 0 643 374 310  
 Miami 7 7 0 500 295 374  
 Buffalo 5 9 0 357 215 333  
 N.Y. Jets 4 10 0 286 292 359

South  
 Houston 10 4 0 714 352 281  
 Indianapolis 8 6 0 571 372 300  
 Tennessee 9 6 0 571 288 254  
 Jacksonville 4 10 0 286 225 289

North  
 Pittsburgh 8 5 1 607 384 316  
 Baltimore 8 6 0 571 341 253  
 Cleveland 6 7 1 464 309 348  
 Cincinnati 6 8 0 429 337 413

West  
 Kansas City 11 3 0 786 499 380  
 L.A. Chargers 11 3 0 786 395 298  
 Denver 7 8 0 429 306 299  
 Oakland 3 11 0 214 260 418

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East  
 Dallas 8 6 0 571 276 259  
 Philadelphia 7 7 0 500 311 318  
 Washington 7 7 0 500 265 310  
 N.Y. Giants 5 9 0 357 307 348

South  
 New Orleans 12 2 0 857 459 292  
 Carolina 6 8 0 429 353 344  
 Atlanta 5 9 0 357 306 381  
 Tampa Bay 5 9 0 357 344 403

North  
 Chicago 10 4 0 714 383 304  
 Minnesota 7 8 1 536 323 308  
 Green Bay 5 8 1 393 332 331  
 Detroit 5 9 0 357 284 333

West  
 L.A. Rams 11 3 0 786 448 343  
 Seattle 8 6 0 571 363 292  
 San Francisco 4 10 0 286 301 373  
 Arizona 3 11 0 214 192 367

First downs 346  
 Total Net Yards 346  
 Rushes-Yards 32-155  
 Passing 191  
 Punt Returns 2-13  
 Kickoff Returns 1-50  
 Interceptions 1-0  
 Comp-Att-Int 23-35-1  
 Sacked-Yards Lost 2-12  
 Fumbles-Lost 4-42-0  
 Penalties-Yards 9-80  
 Time of Possession 30:09

Individual Statistics  
**RUSHING**—New Orleans, Kamara 14-67, Ingram 12-63, Thib 1-17, Lewis 1-4, Brown 2-10-24, Carolina, McCaffrey 15-53, Moore 1-22, C. Newton 5-15, Samuel 2-8.  
**PASSING**—New Orleans, Brown 23-35-1, 203, Carolina, Cam Newton 15-29-1-31, McCaffrey 1-10-50.  
**RECEIVING**—New Orleans, M. Thomas 7-49, Kamara 7-36, Ingram 2-40, 1-19-2-24, B. Smith 2-15, Ingram 1-21, Watson 1-28, Carolina, McCaffrey 8-67, Wright 5-21, Thibault 2-14, Moore 2-12, Murrells 1-50, Samuel 1-17.  
**MISSED FIELD GOALS**—None.

## McWilliams

From 1C

coached secondary under current head coach Ralph Mason at Andrews.

McWilliams understands the challenge in turning around the fortunes of a Big Spring program coming off 3-28 showing since the start of the 2016 season. He will be the program's fourth head coach in five seasons.

"I think one of the things is just consistency," McWilliams said of the Steers improving on the football field. "It's about holding kids accountable, and our discipline has to get better. But the kids will respond. They have responded in the past few weeks of the offseason and they will continue to respond."

McWilliams said he grew as a coach and learned more about the ins and outs of the game in his two seasons as Steer defensive coordinator. McWilliams said on offense that he wants to play a physical brand of football that leans toward a run-oriented attack, but he said the offensive philosophy will depend on personnel and team strengths. On defense, McWilliams wants to play out of a 3-4 alignment, but he says the scheme will be flexible where the Steers will swift into 4-3 looks at times.

McWilliams, a Perm-

ian Basin native, played football at McCamey from 2000-03. A former quarterback, he helped build the Badgers into a top notch program that would play for the 2006 Class 1A Division I state title.

"It was start of something very special and I was glad to be a part of it," McWilliams said.

In addition to his head football coaching duties, McWilliams will also serve as the district's strength and conditioning coordinator.

Ritchey wrote in a press release: "Coach McWilliams' performance in the classroom and on the field of athletic competition over the last two years is admirable. His commitment to our students and student athletes is of the highest standard."

"We are confident our athletes, students, staff and community of Big Spring will be proud to have Coach McWilliams leading our football program and reinforcing our athletic mission of building character through hard work and accountability, both on and off the field."

Ritchey could not be reached for further comment.

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris\_MRTsports

## Ray Rice: 'I'm done with football,' talks domestic violence

By The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice says he's not speaking out against domestic violence as a way to rejoin the NFL.

Appearing Tuesday in a "CBS This Morning" interview with his wife, Janay, Rice said he sees similarities with himself after a video showed Kansas City Chiefs running back Kareem Hunt shoving and kicking a woman at a hotel last month. Hunt was released by the Chiefs.

"Well, obviously, you know, you look back and you see the similarities," Rice said. "Early on you could feel like 'Why they keep bringing my name up?' You can make excuses or you can actually do the hard work."

The 31-year-old was dropped from the Ravens after he was captured on videos punching, kicking and dragging his then-fiancee from an elevator in 2014. The punch knocked her unconscious.

"I hate that person. I hate him. Somewhere down the line everybody who's saying, 'Does he deserve a second chance for football?' And this that and the other — I actually got my second chance," Rice said, when the couple married weeks later.

Janay Rice said she had no idea she was in an abusive relationship until she was forced to think about it. She said she has never seen the video in which Rice punched

her. She said it was the first and only time he physically abused her.

"I was there. I lived it. I don't really need to relive it over and over again just to appease the world," she said.

She added: "I knew that we had work to do, and I was willing to move forward and put in the work."

The couple has sought counseling, and Rice says it gave him time to reflect.

"One of the underlying issues for me was — I never wanted to ask for help. Football, for me, was my counseling. It was my therapy. It was my psychologist. It was everything," he said.

Rice says he realized his mother had gone through a bad relationship and he was "normalizing abnormal things."

"We didn't have a physical abuse problem. But I can say there were different forms of abuse that took place. Was it emotional? Financial? You get to the physical, and that's obviously, like, if it's one time, it's still one time too many," he said.

Rice denies he's looking to get back on the field.

"Well, see that for me, is something that I understand why it was being said early on about, you know, is this a play to get back into football. And I'll be the first one to say it, I don't have to retire to tell you I'm done with football. The pressure I was under of being a star, that was the person I hated the most," he said.

## RECRUITS

From 1C

That doesn't surprise longtime Santa Ana (California) Mater Dei coach Bruce Rollinson, whose program has six of the nation's top 350 senior prospects according to composite rankings of recruiting sites compiled by 247Sports.

Rollinson, the high school coach for current Southern California quarterback J.T. Daniels and receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown, said many seniors want to sign now because they're tired of the recruiting process. Other seniors might feel pressure to get it over with now because so many of their classmates are already signing early.

"Right now statistically I'm hearing anywhere from 80-85 percent of the top players are going to sign Wednesday," Rollinson said. "Well, if I'm a parent, I'm looking at that and saying we'd better be careful here, get signed and lock down this scholarship and not take our chances with a pool of 15 percent or 20 percent of the scholarships that are still available."

The arrival of a December signing period created uncertainty in last year's recruiting cycle because nobody knew just how many seniors would end their college selection process before the winter holidays.

Now they have a better idea.

"I think all of us coaches would tell you it surprised us to get it done and signed in December," Texas coach Tom Herman said.

The change in the recruiting calendar has forced most programs to adjust. That includes offering prospects earlier and getting more of them on campus for official visits in the spring.

Once this early signing period has ended, most teams will only be pursuing a few more high school seniors while shifting their attention to the sophomore and junior classes.

"The way you go about your business has totally changed," Texas A&M coach Jimbo Fisher said.

Coaches aren't the only ones adapting. ESPN has altered its recruiting coverage based on what hap-

pened during the first year of the early signing period.

Last year, ESPN aired two hours of coverage on the first day of the early signing period and two more hours on the final day. Because so much of the action during last year's early signing period occurred on the opening day, ESPN will have five hours of coverage this Wednesday — two hours on ESPN2 and three on ESPN.

There could be a little more suspense with this early signing period, as Rivals director of recruiting Mike Farrell said more high-level recruits entered December undecided than at this time a year ago. Seven of Rivals' top 14 senior prospects remain uncommitted.

There's also a new wrinkle. Barton Simmons, the 247Sports director of scouting, said some players plan to sign this week but want to keep their decisions secret until they announce their plans at upcoming high school all-star games.

"We'll see if that's feasible for them, whether they can keep it quiet or if

it's going to leak," Simmons said.

Alabama leads the 247Sports Composite team standings and is followed in order by Georgia, Texas A&M, LSU and Oregon. Simmons said the team standings probably won't change dramatically by the end of the week, though he mentioned Tennessee (currently 16th), Michigan (9th), Florida (21st) and Southern California (28th) as teams that could make a move.

Nearly all those teams will have signed most of their classes by the end of the week.

"Teams have just moved the goalposts up," Simmons said. "They've effectively reassessed where the finish line is — and they're calling the finish line December. Obviously if there's more work to be done in January, you do it and there's going to be some guys you have to keep on chasing, but most programs are (working) toward making this early signing period the one where they lock everybody up."



## Day eyes return to No. 1, even if it costs him sleep

By Doug Ferguson  
Associated Press

Jason Day wants to get back to No. 1 in the world, and he's willing to lose sleep over it. "There has to be some kind of sacrifice," Day said in the Bahamas before shutting it down for the year. "I was reading the Kobe Bryant book, and he knew there was something he had to sacrifice, so he sacrificed sleep. Because he couldn't sacrifice family, he couldn't sacrifice competing, and not working."

"What can I sacrifice?" he added with a smile. "Sleep."

Day knows the cost of being the best golfer on the planet because he already reached that summit.

He first reached No. 1 in the fall of 2015 after winning five times that year, including his first major at the PGA Championship. The following spring, he won three more tournaments in a span of six starts, capped by a wire-to-wire victory in The Players Championship that gave him the highest points average in the world ranking since Tiger Woods. He stayed No. 1 for 47 weeks and looked to be the dominant player he always wanted to be.

Getting back might be even tougher. The 31-year-old Australian thought he was on the right track when he started the year by winning in a playoff at Torrey Pines, his first victory in more than 18 months. He talked that day about how his victory at Torrey in 2015 propelled him to his best season.

"I'm hoping to do much of the same this year," Day said.

He won again in early May, hitting a towering 7-iron that bounced off the pin on the treacherous par-3 17th at Quail Hollow that sent him to a two-shot victory in the Wells Fargo Championship.

The end of the year brought a sobering reality: Day started at No. 13 in the world, won twice, and finished at No. 14.

"I wasn't as consistent as I should have been," Day said. "If you have a couple of wins, finish with around 10 to 12 top 10s, typically you're in the top-five region. That's why I was disappointed about this year, even though I had two wins."

There's one other part of the equation. Along with adding two PGA Tour victories, he and wife Ellie added a third child. A son, Arrow, was born in November.

Dash was 3 when he ran onto the green at Whistling Straits in 2015 after his father won the PGA Championship, and Ellie was six months pregnant with Lucy. The family is growing and Day invariably has felt a tug. He has talked about his constant battle

with desire and motivation, and now there is another challenge.

"It takes desire, but it takes balance in life," Day said. "Right now, I'm at a different stage in my life just having my third child. It's hard. Tiger made it look so easy over the years. Being No. 1 for 13 years is very impressive, but to be able to be a dominant player, that's the biggest thing. I wanted to be one of those guys."

Winning takes care of everything. Woods used to talk about that when he was getting back to No. 1 after a 2½-year absence. Day won twice and dropped a spot in the ranking.

Part of that is a testament to the depth on the PGA Tour, and how hard it is to win.

Bryson DeChambeau went from No. 99 to No. 5 on the strength of four wins. Woods started at No. 656 and winds up at No. 13. In those cases, they were low enough to make up ground in a hurry. For players just outside the top 10, making up ground requires winning and having a steady diet of chances. Day had only the two wins. He never reached the 18th hole with an opportunity to win at any other tournament.

What bothered him more was his performance in the majors. His best finish in the last two years was a tie for ninth in the 2017 PGA Championship.

"When you don't play well in the majors, when you don't finish well in the FedEx Cup, that's disappointing to me," he said. "I always gear myself around playing well in the majors, and the last couple of years have been pretty hard."

He starts up again in two weeks at Kapalua for the Sentry Tournament of Champions, which he missed last year. He wants to start well again and make up ground. The big test will be contending in a major for the first time since his runner-up finish in the 2016 PGA Championship at Baltusrol.

More than anything, he wants to see if he can dedicate himself to a big year on the course and at home.

"You have to learn balance," he said. "If you want to get to No. 1 in the world, you have to be super selfish. When that happens, you're sacrificing family, you're sacrificing friends, you're sacrificing everything else other than golf."

He chuckled and said, "I wouldn't mind seeing the divorce rate on No. 1 players in the world."

Day has known only one way to play his best golf — with a relentless, methodical work ethic. Now he wants to find his path with a wife and three kids along for the ride.

Even if that means giving up a few hours of sleep.

"I don't sleep well, anyway," he said.

## Bubba wants to be at Presidents Cup as an assistant

By Doug Ferguson  
Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas — Bubba Watson ends the year at No. 12 in the Presidents Cup standings, and his mission is to be at Royal Melbourne one year from now.

But not necessarily as a player.

Watson was asked during the Hero World Challenge what would make a good 2019, and he didn't hesitate.

"I have been bugging Mr. Tiger Woods about being a vice captain for Australia," Watson said. "I would love the honor of doing that again. The reason why is I feel like I can service. For me personally, I have more enjoyment serving 12 guys than playing."

He has experience in that role.

Watson was No. 7 in the world ranking, and No. 9 in the Ryder Cup standings, when he was left off the team. Davis Love III wound up bringing him to Hazeltine as another vice captain, and Watson thrived in his role.

Watson, whose 12 victories on the PGA Tour include two Masters and two World Golf Championships, has played on only two Presidents Cup teams (5-3-2 record), compared with four Ryder Cup teams.

"I always bug Tiger," Watson said. "He says, 'You need to be playing.' I said, 'Look, man, we've never won a Ryder Cup with me playing, but we've won when I wasn't playing. So me and you need to be captain and vice captains.' That's our joke. I've told him, 'Listen, I'll do anything to help you if you want me. If you don't, that's fine.'"

### Swedish connection

Henrik Stenson was bound to disappoint at one tournament last year when the Norda Masters in Sweden was moved to the same week as the Wyndham Championship in North Carolina, where he was the defending champion. He chose North Carolina out of respect to the title defense.

This year isn't much better.

Because of the more compact PGA Tour schedule to finish ahead of football season, the Tour Championship will be held Aug. 22-25. Just his luck, that's the same week as his hometown event now called the Scandinavian Invitational.

"I will be playing golf that week. Where it's going to be, I can't tell you," Stenson said. "In a way, I hope it's going to be at East Lake. But if that doesn't come to fruition, I will be playing in Gothenburg, Sweden, that week."

That's about the time

Stenson's family returns to America. They live in Orlando, Florida, and when the three children get out of school in late May, they head to their summer home in Sweden for 10 weeks. That's where Stenson makes his base when he plays. He typically will spend three weeks in Sweden after the U.S. Open, and a couple of weeks after the British Open.

But they rarely get home for the holidays, for good reason. Stenson says the weather around Christmas in southern Sweden typically is in the mid-30s with gray conditions and rain.

"That's why we've been skiing in Utah," he said. Stenson and wife Emma, who had to choose as a girl between skiing and golf (she played at South Carolina), have gone skiing in Sweden since 2012. Before that, they went skiing indoors near their home in Dubai because they were just starting to teach their oldest daughter, Lisa.

"So I've been skiing in Utah, Sweden and Dubai," Stenson said, pausing to smile before adding, "and almost Tucson."

That would be Tucson, Arizona, where the opening round in 2013 was postponed by snow.

### Sponsorships

The PGA Tour event in the California desert no longer has "Bob Hope" in the title, but it's also missing a corporate name.

What had been the CareerBuilder Challenge the past three years, and the Humana Challenge the four years before that, is now simply the Desert Classic. Tournament officials announced Monday that Workday would be the presenting sponsor.

It will be only the fourth time since 1985 that the tournament does not have a corporate sponsorship in its name. Workday has a personal endorsement with Phil Mickelson, who remains in his role as a "tournament ambassador."

The LPGA Tour, meanwhile, picked up a key title sponsorship for one of its majors.

American International Group signed a five-year deal to be sponsor what now is called the AIG Women's British Open, taking over after Ricoh did not renew. The major is owned by the Royal & Ancient and sanctioned by the LPGA Tour and Ladies European Tour.

It will be played next year on Aug. 1-4 at Woburn, and it will be the final major of the year.

### Americans in Asia

Kurt Kitayama became the latest American who is getting his start on the other

side of the world.

Kitayama, who grew up in Chico, California, and played college golf at UNLV, won the Mauritius Open on Sunday, a tournament sanctioned by the European, Asian and Sunshine tours. He had just earned his European Tour card at qualifying school.

He started out on the Web.com Tour for the second part of 2016 and all of 2017 before trying the Asian Tour this year.

"It's been a different journey for me," said Kitayama, who went up nearly 1,000 spots in the world ranking to No. 198 this week. "It's been really exciting, being able to travel all over the globe, and I'm going to continue to travel more."

John Catlin (New Mexico) won three times and Paul Peterson (Oregon State) won once on the Asian Tour.

Jeffrey Kang (USC), Charlie Saxon (Oklahoma), Joseph Winslow (South Florida) and Kevin Techakornboon (Long Beach State) won on the PGA Tour China Series.

### INDIANA BOUND

The Web.com Tour Championship is leaving Florida after six years and headed north to Indiana.

United Leasing & Finance will be the presenting sponsor next year and is part of a 10-year deal to play the season-ending event at Victoria National Golf Club in Newburgh, Indiana. United Leasing & Finance already is a title sponsor of a Web.com event at Victoria National in late April. The tour said it will be replaced by a new tournament, with an announcement due in January.

The Web.com Tour Championship, the final event of a four-tournament series that awards PGA Tour cards to 25 players, has been at Atlantic Beach Country Club the last three years — one year was wiped out by a hurricane — and the previous three years at the Dye Valley course on the TPC Sawgrass.

### Stat of the week

In the 11 times Tiger Woods played his World Challenge at Sherwood Country Club, he won five times, was runner-up four times and only once finished worse than fourth. In the four times he has played since it left Sherwood, he has finished a combined 69 shots out of the lead.

### Final word

"The next field I'm playing is also not very big and also on an island. So a lot in common." — Jon Rahm, after winning against an 18-man field in the Bahamas, looking ahead to the winners-only field on Maui.

## AP source: Wilson Ramos, Mets agree to \$19M, 2-year deal

By Ronald Blum  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Mets have agreed to a \$19 million, two-year contract with free agent catcher Wilson Ramos, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

The agreement signals an end to the Mets' pursuit of Marlins catcher J.T. Realmuto. Instead, New York turned to a two-time All-Star coming off a strong year with the Tampa Bay Rays and Philadelphia Phillies. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Sunday because the deal has not been announced and is pending a physical.

He would get \$8.25 million next year and \$9.25 in 2020, and the Mets would have a \$10 million option with a \$1.5 million buyout.

The 31-year-old Ramos batted .306 with 15 home runs and an .845 OPS last season, ranking fifth among catchers in Wins Above Replacement at 2.4, via Fangraphs.

New York officials met last week with Ramos at the winter meetings in Las Vegas and with Yasmani Grandal, another free agent catcher, in Arizona. Ramos became the priority for the Mets, partly because of compensation required for signing Grandal, who turned down a \$17.9 million qualifying offer from the Los Angeles Dodgers. If New York had signed Grandal, the Mets would have forfeited their second-highest pick in next June's amateur draft and \$500,000 of



New York Mets catcher Wilson Ramos buttons up his new jersey during a news conference at Citi Field, Tuesday, in New York.

international signing bonus allocation in 2019-20.

The Mets also discussed a possible trade for Realmuto but decided the players it would have had to give up in a swap were too high a cost.

Ramos crosses another item of the to-do list of new general manager Brodie Van Wagenen. The former agent acquired All-Star second baseman Robinson Cano and closer Edwin Diaz from Seattle and also brought back former New York closer Jeurys Familia on a \$30 million, three-year deal. The team may still pursue an upgrade in center field and a left-handed reliever.

Ramos is expected to be New York's primary catcher, with Travis d'Arnaud and Kevin Plawecki as possible backups. D'Arnaud, who turns 30 in February, has been on the disabled list in five straight seasons as injuries limited him to 366 major league games, an average of 73 per season.

D'Arnaud was 3 for 15 (200) with one homer and three RBIs in four games this year when he felt tightness in his right elbow during pregame drills in Miami. He was sent to New York and had an MRI that revealed a torn ulnar collateral ligament. Mets medical director Dr. David Altchek performed Tommy John surgery on April 17.

Ramos made the All-Star team in this year but missed the game with a hamstring issue, and injuries have been a problem for him the past few years. Most notably, he tore his right ACL at the end of a breakout 2016 season with the Washington Nationals, likely costing himself millions of dollars as a free agent that offseason. He ended up with Tampa Bay with a \$12.5 million, two-year deal and earned an additional \$2 million this year as an escalator for making 55 starts at catcher in 2017.

## Brian Agler hired to coach WNBA's Dallas Wings

By The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, — Brian Agler is the new coach of the WNBA's Dallas Wings.

The team announced the hire on Tuesday. Agler resigned as the head coach of the Los Angeles Sparks last month, saying he was ready for a new challenge.

He's the all-time winningest coach in U.S. women's professional basketball with 315 regular-season victories. He's the first coach in league history to win titles with

two teams: Agler guided the Seattle Storm to the 2010 WNBA championship and Los Angeles to the 2016 title.

The 60-year-old coach had an 85-51 career mark with the Sparks, including 19-15 in the regular season before they lost in the second round of the playoffs this year.

He takes over a franchise in Dallas that has question marks — MVP runner-up Liz Cambage of Australia is undecided about returning and star guard Skylar Diggins-Smith announced in October she's pregnant.



AP file photo

## Twins to retire Mauer's No 7 jersey next season

By Dave Campbell  
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Minnesota Twins will retire Joe Mauer's No. 7 jersey next season, moving swiftly to honor the six-time All-Star who retired after a 15-year major league career.

The Twins surprised Mauer with the announcement while he was being celebrated at an all-student assembly at his alma mater Cretin-Derham Hall High School on

Tuesday. Mauer will become the eighth former Twins player or manager with a retired number, joining Harmon Killebrew (3), Rod Carew (29), Tony Oliva (6), Kent Hrbek (14), Kirby Puckett (34), Bert Blyleven (28) and Tom Kelly (10). Jackie Robinson (42) has had his number retired by all major league teams.

Oliva, Hrbek, Blyleven and Kelly entered the gym during the ceremony. Hrbek took the podium and turned to Mauer to reveal the news.

## RANGERS

From 1C

said. Daniels said the Rangers have been interested in Lynn since he was in college at Ole Miss, and even tried to acquire him from the Cardinals in the summer of his rookie season. Lynn now can have a more traditional offseason while preparing for spring training. Rangers pitchers and catchers report to

Arizona on Feb. 12.

"Just knowing where you are going to be gives you a peace of mind. I am looking forward to that, getting things situated so I don't have to kind of show up on the fly and get ready for season," Lynn said. "I'm really looking forward to that and being a part of something here."

Before the Rangers move into a new stadium in 2020, Lynn will get

one season on the mound where he was the winner of Game 3 of the 2011 World Series after he pitched 2 1-3 innings in relief as the Cardinals won 16-7. That was the game when Albert Pujols hit three home runs.

"Somewhere I'm going to be on a stat sheet for that. I'll take that," Lynn said. "Two games later, I was called in to intentionally walk someone. So I've got that going for me, too."



# Be sure to check out Sunday's edition to read weekly LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## WEDNESDAY PRIME TIME

DECEMBER 19, 2018

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION  
PLEASE CHECK MOVIE LISTINGS

|          | G   | S   | R   | C   | N   | 6 PM                 | 6:30                 | 7 PM                            | 7:30                 | 8 PM                  | 8:30                  | 9 PM                           | 9:30                  | 10 PM                 | 10:30                 | 11 PM                 | 11:30                 |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| KMID ABC | 3   | 3   | 4   | 3   | 2   | Jeopardy!            | Wheel of Fortune (N) | Cliff's Foes                    | Shrek the Third      | Modern Family         | Single Parents        | Goldberg                       | Am. Ho. Housewife     | Big 2 News (N)        | 200 Jimmy Kimmel Live | 200 News Highline     | 200 News Highline     |
| KOSA CBS | 7   | 7   | 7   | 7   | 7   | CBS 7 News (N)       | Ent. Tonight (N)     | Survivor: David vs. Goliath (S) | Hogan's Heroes       | Hogan's Heroes        | Hogan's Heroes        | Survivor: Dave vs. Goliath (S) | News (N)              | 200 The Late Show     | 200 J. Corden         | 200 J. Corden         | 200 J. Corden         |
| KWWT CW  | 5   | 14  | 5   | 14  | 14  | M*A*S*H (N)          | M*A*S*H (N)          | Empire "Pride"                  | Gomer Pyle           | Star Trek: Enterprise | Star Trek: Enterprise | Star Trek: Enterprise          | Star Trek: Enterprise | Star Trek: Enterprise | Star Trek: Enterprise | Star Trek: Enterprise | Star Trek: Enterprise |
| KPEJ FOX | 8   | 5   | 5   | 8   | 3   | Big Bang Theory      | Big Bang Theory      | Big Bang Theory                 | Big Bang Theory      | Big Bang Theory       | Big Bang Theory       | Big Bang Theory                | Big Bang Theory       | Big Bang Theory       | Big Bang Theory       | Big Bang Theory       | Big Bang Theory       |
| KMLM IND | 11  | 12  | 12  | 11  | 11  | Housecall            | Housecall            | Housecall                       | Housecall            | Housecall             | Housecall             | Housecall                      | Housecall             | Housecall             | Housecall             | Housecall             | Housecall             |
| KWES NBC | 9   | 9   | 9   | 9   | 9   | NewsWest 9 (N)       | NewsWest 9 (N)       | NewsWest 9 (N)                  | NewsWest 9 (N)       | NewsWest 9 (N)        | NewsWest 9 (N)        | NewsWest 9 (N)                 | NewsWest 9 (N)        | NewsWest 9 (N)        | NewsWest 9 (N)        | NewsWest 9 (N)        | NewsWest 9 (N)        |
| KPBT PBS | 13  | 13  | 13  | 13  | 8   | PBS NewsHour (N)     | PBS NewsHour (N)     | PBS NewsHour (N)                | PBS NewsHour (N)     | PBS NewsHour (N)      | PBS NewsHour (N)      | PBS NewsHour (N)               | PBS NewsHour (N)      | PBS NewsHour (N)      | PBS NewsHour (N)      | PBS NewsHour (N)      | PBS NewsHour (N)      |
| KUPB UNI | 4   | 4   | 4   | 4   | 16  | La rosa de Guadalupe | La rosa de Guadalupe | La rosa de Guadalupe            | La rosa de Guadalupe | La rosa de Guadalupe  | La rosa de Guadalupe  | La rosa de Guadalupe           | La rosa de Guadalupe  | La rosa de Guadalupe  | La rosa de Guadalupe  | La rosa de Guadalupe  | La rosa de Guadalupe  |
| KOSA MNT | 16  | 16  | 16  | 16  | 16  | Last Man Standing    | Last Man Standing    | Last Man Standing               | Last Man Standing    | Last Man Standing     | Last Man Standing     | Last Man Standing              | Last Man Standing     | Last Man Standing     | Last Man Standing     | Last Man Standing     | Last Man Standing     |
| FLIX     | 340 | 575 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| HBO      | 300 | 598 | 14  | 14  | 14  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| HBO2     | 302 | 591 | 15  | 15  | 15  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| HBO3     | 304 | 582 | 16  | 16  | 16  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| MAX      | 300 | 587 | 17  | 17  | 17  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| MAZ      | 302 | 598 | 18  | 18  | 18  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| PLEX     | 300 | 587 | 17  | 17  | 17  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| SHOW     | 320 | 585 | 19  | 19  | 19  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| TMC      | 330 | 579 | 22  | 22  | 22  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| ABC      | 27  | 58  | 28  | 35  | 47  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| AMC      | 40  | 74  | 23  | 42  | 51  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| BET      | 58  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| BRVO     | 65  | 76  | 41  | -   | -   | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| CHBC     | 46  | 52  | 39  | 72  | -   | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| CHN      | 43  | 50  | 51  | 30  | 56  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| DISC     | 50  | 60  | 31  | 24  | 42  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| DISNEY   | 56  | 64  | 36  | 25  | 36  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| ESPN     | 32  | 35  | 48  | 31  | 30  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| ESPN2    | 34  | 36  | 49  | 32  | 31  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| FNC      | 45  | 48  | 53  | 23  | 55  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| FOOD     | 64  | 70  | 27  | 68  | 54  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| FREEFORM | 53  | 63  | 34  | 42  | 33  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| FX       | 37  | 38  | 50  | 45  | 29  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| HALLMARK | 54  | 71  | 58  | 34  | 34  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| HISTORY  | 63  | 69  | 26  | 48  | 44  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| LIFETIME | 28  | 30  | 25  | 28  | 48  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| MSNBC    | 47  | 53  | -   | 49  | 73  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| NBCSN    | 38  | 43  | -   | -   | -   | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| NICK     | 55  | -   | 39  | 34  | 37  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| SPICE    | 30  | -   | 55  | 53  | 58  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| SYFY     | 66  | 82  | 41  | 57  | 67  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| TBS      | 25  | 33  | 44  | 66  | 41  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| TCM      | 41  | 75  | 24  | 63  | 66  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| TELE     | 20  | -   | 10  | 20  | -   | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| TLC      | 51  | 61  | 32  | 38  | 52  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| TNT      | 24  | 34  | 40  | 26  | 50  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| TVLAND   | 49  | -   | 35  | 54  | 35  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| USA      | 26  | 55  | 42  | 27  | 49  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |
| WGN      | 19  | 85  | -   | -   | -   | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were             | 200 The Way We Were  | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were            | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   | 200 The Way We Were   |

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## Sparks fail to fly for mom dating her perfect match

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a close friend who is in her mid-30s. She's a wonderful, divorced, hardworking Christian mother of four who has finally ventured back to the dating scene. She's currently seeing a guy who in all respects is perfect for her, she says. Unfortunately, when it comes to romance, for some reason she can't seem to get aroused, and it's now at a point where she avoids his kiss if possible.

She really likes him and would love for this to work and feels conflicted because she doesn't know how to "light her fire" and find him intimately attractive. She's afraid she'll eventually push him away even though she wants the exact opposite. Any advice I can pass along? — **NEEDING A FRIEND IN THE SOUTHWEST**

**DEAR NEEDING:** Your friend needs to understand why she's having a problem "getting her fire lit." Could it be related to her divorce? Her feelings about premarital intimacy? Has she seen her doctor to rule out a physical cause? Or could it be that although he looks good on paper, there's simply no chemistry?

Because intimacy is an important part of marriage, she needs to be honest with herself about why she's reacting the way she is. If this isn't the only man this has happened with, and she can't find

the answers within herself, some sessions with a licensed mental health professional may be in order.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband invited his good friend (an artist) to stay with us for two nights because he is coming to our city to give a speech. He accepted. We tried to contact him two weeks ago, one week ago, three days ago, yesterday and this morning to find out what time he'll arrive so we can plan our schedule and prepare the food. He still hasn't gotten back to us. I had planned to go to church and a concert afterward. My husband doesn't want me to leave.

I am very frustrated about the man's lack of consideration. My husband considers him a good friend, but after the way we are being treated, I'm not convinced. — **STILL WAITING IN CALIFORNIA**

**DEAR WAITING:** I don't blame you for being miffed. Good

friends don't treat each other so rudely. They answer their messages and show up when they're expected. Unless the man was in the hospital, solitary confinement or dead, there's no excuse for his poor manners. Because your husband considers him a good friend, he should have stayed home to welcome "the artist" and let you off the hook.

**DEAR ABBY:** My son and daughter-in-law are "horrified" that we refer to our 3-year-old grandson's penis using the correct terminology. Should we relent and refer to that part of his body as something else? — **UNSURE IN THE SOUTH**

**DEAR UNSURE:** Not in my opinion. Children should be taught the correct terms for their body parts as soon as they are aware enough to identify — and pronounce — them. To do this will prevent confusion and possibly embarrassment later.

## GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

## Judicious use of spots

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♦ K75  
♣ 72

WEST  
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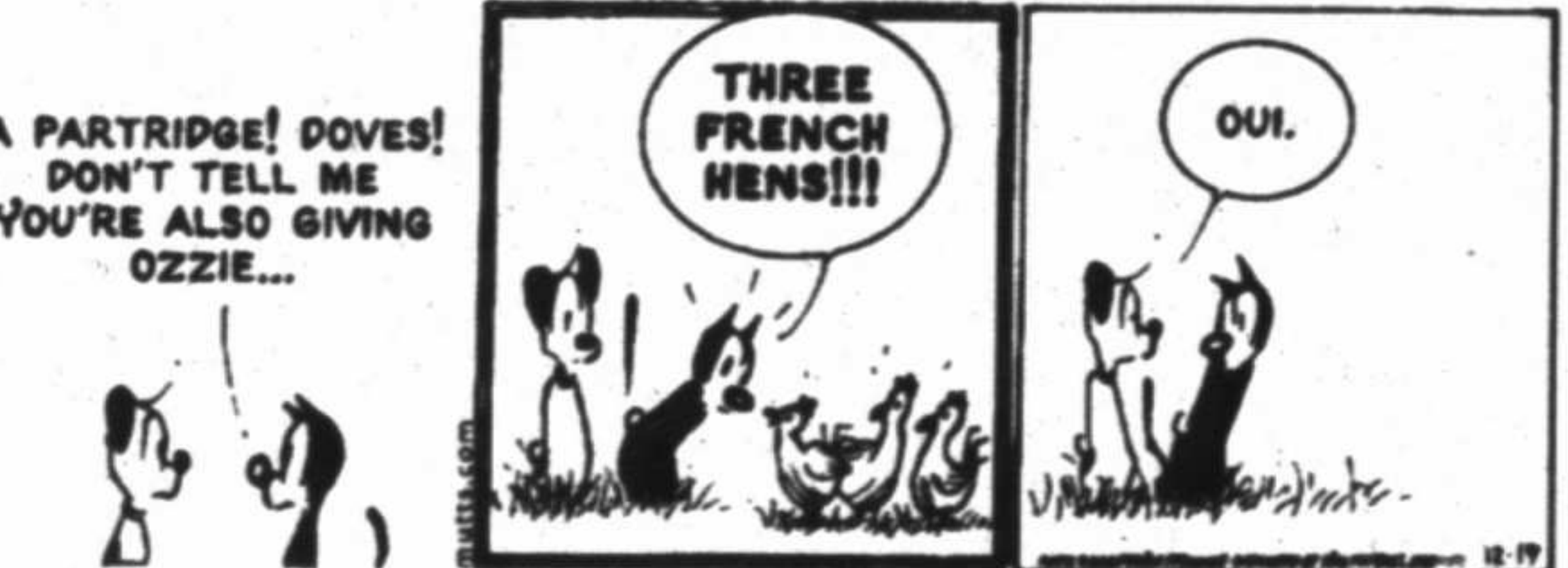
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| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
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| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
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| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
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| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
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| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
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| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78.0 | 1.01 | -8.1 | Sprint | 1.2M | -1  | -81 | -68.2 |
| Verizon | 1.7M | 14 | 78   |      |      |        |      |     |     |       |



# LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Midland Reporter-Telegram

## BECOME A FEATURED BUSINESS

### 432-687-8894

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**RUSTIC WINDMILL**

A VINTAGE INSPIRED MARKETPLACE

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Midland, TX 79701  
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HOSE YOU TRUST



aim Mortgage

**REAL ESTATE**

*The Real Estate Company*

432-618-0286

**ENTERTAINMENT**



*Childhood Home*

1112 W. Ohio, Midland, TX 79701  
Paul St. Hilaire, Executive Director 432-685-1112

**PIPE**

**PRECISION PIPE RENTALS**

2114 FM 1208, Stanton, TX 79782 • (432) 458-3306

Midland Locations:

**Range 3 Inspection Services** • Sizes 4" - 36"  
**Available Services will include:** P&H Inspection, 12" & 14" Line Inspection, R.O. Full Length Drills, VTI (Visual Thread Inspection)

The inspection will be performed to API standards and specifications, specifically API 1161, 1111, API 571, 572, or to customer specifications. Both available, per request.

**DRILL PIPE, PIPE RACKS, HANDLING TOOLS, BLOWOUT PREVENTERS**

HYT, YIT, MYT, LYT Elevators, TWT Safety Valves, Pup Joints, Pump-In Subs, Crossover Subs, Bowl & Slips, Stabbing Guides & Units

**CLEANING & INSPECTION**

**REAL ESTATE**



**MIDLAND 1ST CHOICE REAL ESTATE**

**THE DOSS TEAM**

432-699-7000

**HEALTH CARE**



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1-800-201-5904  
432-522-5094 Fax  
mccorcle@nursesunlimited.com

WENDIE McCORCLE, RN  
ADMINISTRATOR  
PRIVATE DIVISION

**REAL ESTATE**

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Whole House Filtration  
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Midland, Texas Area

Midland Reporter-Telegram

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# TEXAS *back to* WORK.COM



Employment ads by:

432.682.6999

432.682.6222

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

**Textures & Fabric LTD is now Hiring!**  
Looking for a Customer Services Rep

- Job Includes:
- \* Answering incoming calls from customers needing assistance in variety of areas.
- \* Fulfill customer service functions.
- \* Answer questions, give explanation, and solve problems for customers.
- \* Complete special projects as assigned. Send resume to [ptjob001@aol.com](mailto:ptjob001@aol.com)

## HEALTHCARE

**Experienced Medical Assistant**  
**Experienced Medical Assistant Needed**

**Must be bilingual. Available M-F.**  
**Please call 432-520-4305 or fax resume to 432-699-0773**

## OTHER JOBS

**\$500**  
**SIGN ON BONUS**  
For the first 10 people who sign on for a route

**Be In Business for Yourself**  
**With No Money Down**  
**Home Delivery Routes Available**

The Midland Reporter Telegram's Circulation Department is looking for independent contractors to deliver newspapers to home delivery subscribers in **Midland city & county areas**.

Applicants must be dependable, service oriented to provide excellent service to our readers. You must also be available early morning hour's 7 days a week [Our Distribution Centers open as early as 1:30 am with route delivery deadlines of 6 am during the week and 7 am on Sunday]. Compensation is dependent on route size and the number of copies delivered with the approximate gross profit potential between \$250 - \$630 every 2 weeks for 2 1/2 - 3 hours per day. The successful applicant must be able to work independently of direct supervision.

Applicants must have a dependable vehicle, valid driver's license and proof of insurance.

For more information and to be considered for a route please contact the Midland Reporter Telegram representative listed below.

**Adam Kahle**  
432-238-4998

**Oscar Ronquillo**  
432-687-9001

## Wash & Lube Positions

**Mighty Wash NOW Hiring Full/Part-Time Positions.**  
Wash & Lube 3314 N Loop 250.

or email [daniel@mighty-wash.com](mailto:daniel@mighty-wash.com) or online [mighty-wash.com](http://mighty-wash.com)



## OTHER JOBS



## CIRCULATION CLERK

The purpose of this position is to assist Circulation department in reaching goals for start pressure, volumes, retention, single copy, and customer service. The primary function of the Circulation Clerk is to handle administrative functions of the department including tracking and analysis.

Maintain reports for Circulation including tracking of start pressure, volumes, service and collection statistics, and retention for all properties in West Texas primarily the Plainview Herald and Midland Reporter Telegram. Report return information to the Accounting department on a timely basis for Plainview Herald and the MRT.

Process customer and DSM written and email correspondence, and respond to their phone inquiries. Work with the call center to resolve customer complaints as well as helping with in customer's in reference to their account.

Work with customers and delivery staff to resolve delivery questions and service issues for our West Texas properties.

Special projects and administrative support tasks assigned by Circulation Managers as needed.

Designated back-up for other Circulation & Finance support staff members as needed.

Able to react to change productively and handle other essential tasks as assigned.

In order to communicate with company personnel and customers English is vital.

College degree or equivalent years of experience in office management or related areas required.

Proficient computer skills including Microsoft Office package (Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Access), experience in data entry and typing speed minimum 35wpm required.

Customer Service Skills, computer skills, analytical skills. Must be goal oriented, energetic and have good time management and organizational skills. Must be able to react to change productively.

This position is instrumental in analyzing data, interacting with all department personnel and resolving customer problems.

Sign-On Bonus

Send resumes to [sheckler@hearstnp.com](mailto:sheckler@hearstnp.com)

## House Cleaner

House Cleaner needed \$600/ Weekly, Working Days:  
Monday and Friday Time Schedule: 8AM - 3PM  
Email: [jenniferbenny1888@outlook.com](mailto:jenniferbenny1888@outlook.com)



## NOW HIRING 100 DELIVERY DRIVERS

- Great attitude and desire to be part of the Domino's team a must!
- Must be 18 years of age or older with a good driving record
- Valid Driver's License
- Your own vehicle with insurance
- Earn hourly wage plus tips and mileage. Great drivers can earn \$18-\$25 per hour with a great attitude and hustle
- Full time & Part-time positions available with flexible hours

## CASHIERS, PREP COOKS, LINE COOKS AND DISHWASHERS

- Great first job for student over 16 years old
- Earn a \$12 hourly wage with quick raise opportunities
- Full time & Part-time positions available

APPLY ONLINE at [JOBS.DOMINOS.COM](http://JOBS.DOMINOS.COM)

or any of the 18 Midland & Odessa locations

1307 N Loop 250 - Midland

3300 W Illinois - Midland

4519 N Garfield - Midland

604 N Big Spring St - Midland

503 I-20 - Midland

3111 Fairview Rd - Odessa

980 E 87th St - Odessa

1106 E 42nd St - Odessa

2251 Linda Ave - Odessa

9001 W University Blvd - Odessa

## SALES JOBS

## Manager & Cashiers

Smoker's Outlet has SIGNING BONUS for MANAGER TRAINEE & CASHIERS Full-time & Part-time position must have own transportation  
Apply in person Mon-Fri 8-5 at either store  
5000 E University, Ste 11, Odessa, Tx & 312 W Midland Dr, Midland, TX

## SKILLED LABOR

## Diesel Mechanics

Job Opportunity: Presto Oilfield Services are seeking to hire Diesel Mechanics with CDL to work on heavy equipment. Must have 2 years experience in a similar position. Interested candidates may send their resume to [operations@prestoilfieldservices.com](mailto:operations@prestoilfieldservices.com)

## Owl Energy Services

General Labor/Field Hand

Poly Line Installation

Requirements:

Valid DL

Drug Testing

Monday-Friday w/occasional weekend work.  
Benefits include 401K & Medical

\$5 Paid Holidays \$5

Apply @ Owl Energy Services, 2952 Commerce St, Midland, Texas 79703. Between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

NO PER DIAM

NO TELEPHONE CALLS ACCEPTED, MUST COME TO IN AND FILL OUT APPLICATION. BRING ID's with You.

## Heavy Equipment Operators

Hiring experienced heavy equipment operators for oilfield dirt work. 2+ years O&G experience required. Dozer, trackhoe, loader positions available. Pay DOE. Health, vision, and dental insurance 100% paid! Apply in person: 9400 S. Service Rd, Coahoma, TX, or call 432-394-4604 for more information.

## Technical Service & Field Sales

J&W Services and Equipment Co. is seeking a Technical Service and Field Sales rep for our Raider Electric Feed Thru division (a BW Distributor). 2+ yrs experience preferred but willing to train. Benefits include health, dental & life ins. Vacation & Sick pay. Opportunities to earn commissions and quality bonuses. Participation in 401k after one year. Stop at 3510 E Hwy 158 in Midland/online [www.jandwservices.com](http://www.jandwservices.com) for app & submit to [jobs@jwseheads.com](mailto:jobs@jwseheads.com)



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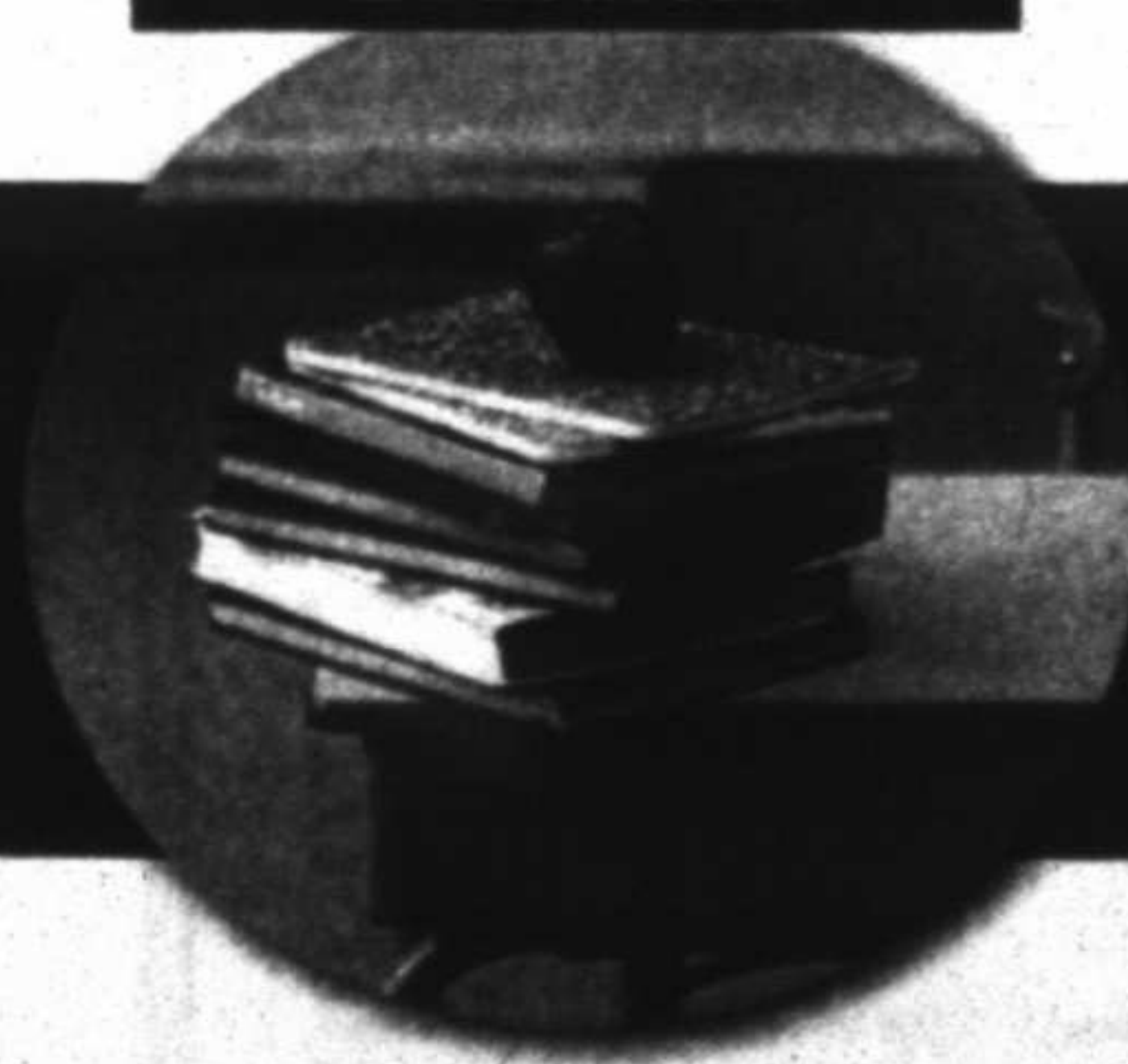
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## Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Lorraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H1555S) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 2,092' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 2,092 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
Amy M. Turner, MMC  
City Secretary

## Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Lorraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H160MS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 2,422' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 2,422 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

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## Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Lorraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H130WB) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 230' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 230 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
Amy M. Turner, MMC  
City Secretary

## Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Lorraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H130MS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 260' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 260 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
Amy M. Turner, MMC  
City Secretary

## Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Lorraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H160LS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 2,452' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 2,452 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
Amy M. Turner, MMC  
City Secretary

## Legal and Public Notices

### RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 7C  
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 10, 2018  
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 14, 2019  
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas  
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit  
P.O. Box 12967  
Austin, Texas 78711-2967  
Fax: (512) 463-6780  
Email: SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

Rule 37 Case No. 0315232  
Status/Permit No. 844916

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PARSLEY ENERGY OPERATIONS, LLC, [RRC Operator No. 642652] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 17, Bk. 39 T5S, T&P RR CO Survey, A-431, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) and SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Fields, UPTON County, being 9.7 miles SW direction from MIDKIFF, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted WITHOUT A HEARING if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512) 463-6848. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 (512) 463-6751.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 14, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

### THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

#### FIELD SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name: ELLIE 20-29-D  
Lease/Unit Well No: 4307H  
Lease/Unit Acres: 972.01  
Nearest Lease Line (ft): 1.0  
Nearest Well on Lease (ft): 1.0

Lease Lines: 390.0 F S L, 2310.0 F W L  
Survey Lines: 390.0 F S L, 2310.0 F W L

#### Wellbore Profile(s) Horizontal

#### Lateral TH1

Penetration Point Location  
Lease Lines: 390.0 F S L, 2310.0 F W L

#### Terminus Location

BH County: UPTON  
Section: 29  
Survey: T&P RR CO  
Lease Lines: 60.0 F SOUTH L, 2100.0 F WEST L  
Survey Lines: 60.0 F SOUTH L, 2100.0 F WEST L

#### FIELD SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC

Lease/Unit Name: ELLIE 20-29-D  
Lease/Unit Well No: 4307H  
Lease/Unit Acres: 972.01  
Nearest Lease Line (ft): 1.0  
Nearest Well on Lease (ft): 1.0

Lease Lines: 390.0 F S L, 2310.0 F W L  
Survey Lines: 390.0 F S L, 2310.0 F W L

#### Wellbore Profile(s) Horizontal

#### Lateral TH1

Penetration Point Location  
Lease Lines: 390.0 F S L, 2310.0 F W L

#### Terminus Location

BH County: UPTON  
Section: 29  
Survey: T&P RR CO  
Lease Lines: 60.0 F SOUTH L, 2100.0 F WEST L  
Survey Lines: 60.0 F SOUTH L, 2100.0 F WEST L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA): Special Rules 3300, 80.0 acres

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC: Special Rules 3300, 80.0 acres

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 9959 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Johnathan Washington, at (512) 600-8855.

## Legal and Public Notices

### RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 7C  
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 10, 2018  
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P.O. Box 12967  
Austin, Texas 78711-2967  
Fax: (512) 463-6780  
Email: SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

Rule 37 Case No. 0315231  
Status/Permit No. 844913

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PARSLEY ENERGY OPERATIONS, LLC, [RRC Operator No. 642652] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 17, Bk. 39 T5S, T&P RR CO Survey, A-431, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) and SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Fields, UPTON County, being 9.7 miles SW direction from MIDKIFF, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted WITHOUT A HEARING if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512) 463-6848. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 (512) 463-6751.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 14, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

### THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

#### FIELD SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name: ELLIE 20-29-D  
Lease/Unit Well No: 4407H  
Lease/Unit Acres: 972.01  
Nearest Lease Line (ft): 1.0  
Nearest Well on Lease (ft): 178.0

Lease Lines: 420.0 F S L, 2310.0 F W L  
Survey Lines: 420.0 F S L, 2310.0 F W L

#### Wellbore Profile(s) Horizontal

#### Lateral TH1

Penetration Point Location  
Lease Lines: 420.0 F S L, 2310.0 F W L

#### Terminus Location

BH County: UPTON  
Section: 29  
Survey: T&P RR CO  
Lease Lines: 60.0 F SOUTH L, 2100.0 F WEST L  
Survey Lines: 60.0 F SOUTH L, 2100.0 F WEST L

#### FIELD SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC

Lease/Unit Name: ELLIE 20-29-D  
Lease/Unit Well No: 4407H  
Lease/Unit Acres: 972.01  
Nearest Lease Line (ft): 1.0  
Nearest Well on Lease (ft): 178.0

Lease Lines: 420.0 F S L, 2310.0 F W L  
Survey Lines: 420.0 F S L, 2310.0 F W L

#### Wellbore Profile(s) Horizontal

#### Lateral TH1

Penetration Point Location  
Lease Lines: 420.0 F S L, 2310.0 F W L

#### Terminus Location

BH County: UPTON  
Section: 29  
Survey: T&P RR CO  
Lease Lines: 60.0 F SOUTH L, 2100.0 F WEST L  
Survey Lines: 60.0 F SOUTH L, 2100.0 F WEST L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA): Special Rules 3300, 80.0 acres

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC: Special Rules 3300, 80.0 acres

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 10184 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Johnathan Washington, at (512) 600-8855.

## Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Lorraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Mustang #H110MS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 2,336' FWL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 2,336 feet east of Rankin Highway and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
Amy M. Turner, MMC  
City Secretary

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Lorraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H135SS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 1,090' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 1,090 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
Amy M. Turner, MMC  
City Secretary

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Lorraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H150LS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 1,792' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 1,792 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
Amy M. Turner, MMC  
City Secretary



## Fax Your Ad 24-7 682-6999

## NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Permian Basin Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Dawson, Ector, Howard, Martin Counties and portions of Borden and Midland Counties, are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning January 7, 2019. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

## NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the St. Lawrence Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Glasscock, Reagan, Upton, and portions of Midland County, are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning January 7, 2019. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

## Legal and Public Notices

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Enequina Perez Villa, Deceased, were issued to Hector Manuel Villa on November 30, 2018 in Cause No. P18453, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Hector Villa  
c/o Brandon W. Pinson  
P.O. Box 8530  
Midland, Texas 79708

DATED the 17th day of December, 2018.

PINSON LAW FIRM  
By: Brandon W. Pinson

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Loraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H140WS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 1,762' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 1,762 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
Amy M. Turner, MMC  
City Secretary

## Legal and Public Notices

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Frances Ruth Loper, Deceased, were issued to Mary Ann Lockwood on November 27, 2018 in Cause No. P19620, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Mary Lockwood  
c/o Brandon W. Pinson  
P.O. Box 8530  
Midland, Texas 79708

DATED the 17th day of December, 2018.

PINSON LAW FIRM  
By: Brandon W. Pinson

## Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Loraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H140WS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 1,120' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 1,120 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
Amy M. Turner, MMC  
City Secretary

## Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Loraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H145WA) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 1,340' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 1,340 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
Amy M. Turner, MMC  
City Secretary

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Loraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H140MS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 1,150' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 1,150 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
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City Secretary

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LOCATION: Generally located 1,371 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
Amy M. Turner, MMC  
City Secretary

## The Bottom Line

As household income,  
education levels and job  
responsibility  
increases, so does readership.

Midland Reporter-Telegram

mrt.com

201 EAST ILLINOIS AVENUE  
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701  
432-682-5311

## Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Loraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Mustang #H110LS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 2,306' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 2,306 feet east of Rankin Highway and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
Amy M. Turner, MMC  
City Secretary

## Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Loraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H135WA) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 1,060' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.

LOCATION: Generally located 1,060 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND  
Amy M. Turner, MMC  
City Secretary

## Legal and Public Notices

## RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 7C Rule 37 Case No. 0315233  
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 19, 2018 Status/Permit No. 844918  
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 23, 2019

Address: Railroad Commission of Texas  
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit  
P.O. Box 12967  
Austin, Texas 78711-2967  
Fax: (512) 463-6780  
Email: SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PARSLEY ENERGY OPERATIONS, LLC, (RRC Operator No. 642652) has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (18 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 17, Bx. 39 TSS, T&P RR CO Survey, A-431, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) and SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Fields, UPTON COUNTY, being 9.7 miles SW direction from MIDKIFF, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted WITHOUT A HEARING if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and present the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 (512)463-6781.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 23, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

## THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name : ELLIE 20-29-D  
Lease/Unit Well No. : 4207H  
Lease/Unit Acres : 972.01  
Nearest Lease Line (R) : 1.0  
Nearest Well on Lease (R) : 1.0

Lease Lines : 360.0 F S L 2310.0 F W L  
Survey Lines : 360.0 F S L 2310.0 F W L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral: TH1

Penetration Point Location  
Lease Lines : 360.0 F S L 2310.0 F W L

Terminus Location  
SH County: UPTON  
Section: 29  
Survey: T&P RR CO  
Lease Lines : 60.0 F SOUTH L 2100.0 F WEST L  
Survey Lines : 60.0 F SOUTH L 2100.0 F WEST L

Block: 39 TSS Abstract: 437

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC

Lease/Unit Name : ELLIE 20-29-D  
Lease/Unit Well No. : 4207H  
Lease/Unit Acres : 972.01  
Nearest Lease Line (R) : 1.0  
Nearest Well on Lease (R) : 1.0

Lease Lines : 360.0 F S L 2310.0 F W L  
Survey Lines : 360.0 F S L 2310.0 F W L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral: TH1

Penetration Point Location  
Lease Lines : 360.0 F S L 2310.0 F W L

Terminus Location  
SH County: UPTON  
Section: 29  
Survey: T&P RR CO  
Lease Lines : 60.0 F SOUTH L 2100.0 F WEST L  
Survey Lines : 60.0 F SOUTH L 2100.0 F WEST L

Block: 39 TSS Abstract: 437

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 3300, 60.0 acres.

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC : Special Rules 3300, 60.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 8718 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Johnathon Washington, at (512)500-0885.

## Legal and Public Notices

## NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, on November 11, 2003, a certain Adjustable Rate Home Equity Conversion Deed of Trust ("Reverse Mortgage") was executed by A.C. CHEARS AND ALGA CHEARS, as mortgagor in favor of WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE, INC., as mortgagee and ROBERT K. FOWLER, as trustee, and was recorded on December 3, 2003 under Clerk's Instrument Number 19232 in the real property records of Ector County, Texas;

WHEREAS, the Reverse Mortgage was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the "Secretary") pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and

WHEREAS, the beneficial interest in the Reverse Mortgage is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an assignment dated February 13, 2015, and recorded on March 18, 2015, under Clerk's Instrument Number 2015-00003848 in the real property records of Ector County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Reverse Mortgage in that the Mortgagors are now deceased; and

WHEREAS, the entire amount delinquent as of January 2, 2019 is \$75,219.03; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Reverse Mortgage to be immediately due and payable;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, recorded on October 15, 2007 in Dallas County under Clerk's File Number 20070369308, notice is hereby given that on January 2, 2019, at 10:00 AM local time or no later than three hours thereafter, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises ("Property") will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder:

LOT 1, BLOCK 55, SHERWOOD ADDITION, 6TH FILING, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF ODESSA, ECTOR COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF OF RECORD IN VOLUME 5, PAGE 9, PLAT RECORDS, ECTOR COUNTY, TEXAS.

Commonly known as: 5201 NORTH EVERGLADE AVENUE, ODESSA, TX 79762.

The sale will be held at the Ector County Courthouse, Texas at the following location: THE FRONT DOOR OF THE ECTOR COUNTY COURTHOUSE (WEST ENTRANCE) OR AS DESIGNATED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE or as designated by the County Commissioners Court.

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development will bid \$75,219.03.

There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his prorated share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale.

When making their bids, all bidders except the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling \$7,521.90 in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the Secretary of HUD. A deposit need not accompany each oral bid. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of \$7,521.90 must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is non-refundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the highest bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveying fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery date of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them.

The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for 15-day increments for a fee of \$500.00, paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the Secretary of HUD. If the high bidder does not deliver the fee on the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due.

If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extension of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to pay the HUD representative, will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The Commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD representative, offer the property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder.

There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant.

The scheduled foreclosure sale shall be cancelled or adjourned if it is established, by documented written application of the mortgagor to the Foreclosure Commissioner not less than 3 days before the date of sale, or otherwise, that the default or defaults upon which the foreclosure is based did not exist at the time of service of this notice of default and foreclosure sale, or all amounts due under the mortgage agreement are tendered to the Foreclosure Commissioner, in the form of a certified or cashier's check payable to the Secretary of HUD, before public auction of the property is completed.

The amount that must be paid if the mortgage is to be paid in full prior the scheduled sale is \$75,219.03, plus all other amounts that would be due under the mortgage agreement if payments under the mortgage had not been accelerated, advertising costs and postage expenses incurred in giving notice, mileage by the most reasonable road distance for posting notices and for the Foreclosure Commissioner's attendance at the sale, reasonable and customary costs incurred for title and lien record searches, the necessary out-of-pocket costs incurred by the Foreclosure Commissioner for recording documents, a commission for the Foreclosure Commissioner, and all other costs incurred in connection with the foreclosure prior to reinstatement.

Tender of payment by certified or cashier's check or application for cancellation of the foreclosure sale shall be submitted to the address of the Foreclosure Commissioner provided below.

Date: December 5, 2018

L. Keller Macle  
Foreclosure Commissioner  
Macle Wolf Zentz & Mann, P.C.  
Parkway Office Center, Suite 900  
14160 North Dallas Parkway  
Dallas, TX 75254  
(214) 635-2690  
(214) 635-2696 Fax



| Legal and Public Notices                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Legal and Public Notices                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <p>The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Lorraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H140LS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 1.180' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&amp;P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.</p> <p>LOCATION: Generally located 1.180 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.</p> <p>The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.</p> <p>CITY OF MIDLAND<br/>Amy M. Turner, MMC<br/>City Secretary</p> | <p>The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Lorraine, on a request by Permian Deep Rock Oil Co., LLC (Rebel #H130LS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 110' FSL and 290' FEL, Section 2, Block 39, T-2-S, T&amp;P RR CO Survey, Midland County, Texas.</p> <p>LOCATION: Generally located 290 feet west of South Lamesa Road and 170 feet south of I-20.</p> <p>The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.</p> <p>CITY OF MIDLAND<br/>Amy M. Turner, MMC<br/>City Secretary</p> |

## Legal and Public Notices

## NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2003, a certain Adjustable Rate Home Equity Conversion Deed of Trust ("Reverse Mortgage") was executed by GEORGE TISDALE, as mortgagor in favor of WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE, INC. as mortgagee and ROBERT K. FOWLER, as trustee, and was recorded on April 4, 2003 under Clerk's Instrument Number 7517, Book 2144, Page 721 in the real property records of Midland, Texas. Re-filed on May 28, 2003 under Clerk's Instrument Number 12301, Book 2174, Page 286 in the real property records of Midland, Texas.

WHEREAS, the Reverse Mortgage was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the "Secretary") pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and

WHEREAS, the beneficial interest in the Reverse Mortgage is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an assignment dated February 5, 2009, and recorded on February 17, 2009, under Clerk's Instrument Number 2009-2796 in the real property records of Midland County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Reverse Mortgage in that the Mortgagors are now deceased; and

WHEREAS, the entire amount delinquent as of January 2, 2019 is \$74,933.94; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Reverse Mortgage to be immediately due and payable;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, recorded on October 15, 2007 in Dallas County under Clerk's File Number 20070369306, notice is hereby given that on January 2, 2019, at 10:00 AM local time or no later than three hours thereafter, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises ("Property") will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder:

**BEING LOTS TWELVE (12) AND THIRTEEN (13), BLOCK FIFTY SIX (56), PARK AVENUE HEIGHTS ADDITION, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF MIDLAND, MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF OF RECORD IN PLAT CABINET B, PAGE 115, PLAT RECORDS OF MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS.**

Commonly known as: 600 S. TYLER STREET, MIDLAND, TX 79701

The sale will be held at the Midland County Courthouse, Texas at the following location: THE FOYER AND SOUTH ENTRANCE AT THE FRONT OF THE COURTHOUSE OR AS DESIGNATED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE or as designated by the County Commissioners Court.

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development will bid \$74,933.94

There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his prorated share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale.

When making their bids, all bidders except the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling \$7,493.39 in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the Secretary of HUD. A deposit need not accompany each oral bid. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of \$7,493.39 must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the highest bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveying fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery date of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them.

The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for 15-day increments for a fee of \$500.00, paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the Secretary of HUD. If the high bidder closes the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due.

If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extension of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the foreclosure commissioner after consultation with the HUD representative, will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The Commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD representative, offer the property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder.

There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant.

The scheduled foreclosure sale shall be cancelled or adjourned if it is established, by documented written application of the mortgagor to the Foreclosure Commissioner not less than 3 days before the date of sale, or otherwise, that the default or defaults upon which the foreclosure is based did not exist at the time of service of this notice of default and foreclosure sale, or all amounts due under the mortgage agreement are tendered to the Foreclosure Commissioner, in the form of a certified or cashier's check payable to the Secretary of HUD, before public auction of the property is completed.

The amount that must be paid if the mortgage is to be paid in full prior the scheduled sale is \$74,933.94, plus all other amounts that would be due under the mortgage agreement if payments under the mortgage had not been accelerated, advertising costs and postage expenses incurred in giving notice, mileage by the most reasonable road distance for posting notices and for the Foreclosure Commissioner's attendance at the sale, reasonable and customary costs incurred for title and lien record searches, the necessary out-of-pocket costs incurred by the Foreclosure Commissioner for recording documents, a commission for the Foreclosure Commissioner, and all other costs incurred in connection with the foreclosure prior to reinstatement.

Tender of payment by certified or cashier's check or application for cancellation of the foreclosure sale shall be submitted to the address of the Foreclosure Commissioner provided below.

Date: December 5, 2018

L. Keller Mackie  
Foreclosure Commissioner  
Mackie Wolf Zientz & Mann, P.C.  
Parkway Office Center, Suite 900  
14160 North Dallas Parkway  
Dallas, TX 75254  
(214) 635-2650  
(214) 635-2686 Fax

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TOYOTA Scion XB, 2010, 7K miles, good condition, everything works. For more information, call 432-934-1499

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**House Rent Unfurn**

1011 DENTON St. Midland, TX 79703 3bed 2bath. \$2,500 Neg. Monthly includes WD 432-557-4788

**Residential Sales**

FOR SALE BY OWNER 902 Shirley Court, Highland Park Townhouse, recently updated, ed. 432-559-5198 for an appointment.

**Single Family Homes**

HOUSE NEEDING a home 3 bedroom 2 bath, location/ move your choice of areas \$19,500. Like to discuss details. 469-363-2480

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**Legal and Public Notices**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTION TO SWR 26/27 SURFACE COMMINGLING PERMIT**

Notice is hereby given that XTO Energy Inc., Operator 945936, has filed with the Texas Railroad Commission. The following P-17 application for the exception to SWR 26 and/or 27 to surface commingling production from oil and gas leases in (New Lease ID ) Goldsmith, C. A. ETAL Lease TXL (Wolfcamp) Field, (Lease ID 02186 ) Goldsmith, C. A. ETAL Lease, Goldsmith (Devonian) Field, (Lease ID 02100) Goldsmith, C. A. ETAL Lease, Goldsmith (Clear Fork) Field, Ector County. This application is for common separation and common storage into a common facility. Production will be measured by W-10 well tests. Any royalty interest owners who have not received written notification please consider this your Notice of Application. If you have objections to the issuance of this permit, you may submit a letter to Darlene Williams, P-17 Department, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. Unless the Commission receives a protest to this application, the Commission may issue a permit within 21 days after the date the application is filed.

**Legal and Public Notices**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT**

XTO Energy, Inc., Opr. No. 945936, 6401 Holiday Hill Road, Bldg. 5, Midland, Texas 79707 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas to inject fluids by well injection into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Clearfork Formation in the Goldsmith, C. A. ETAL Well No. 2605. The proposed injection well is located 1944 FNL & 164 FWL, Sec. 27, Blk. 44 T15, T & P RR Co., A-283, 3.5 miles south from Goldsmith, Texas in the Goldsmith (Clear Fork) Field, in Ector County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5483 to 7000 feet.

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:** Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

**Legal and Public Notices**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FILED WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

On November 30, 2018, Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor"), Sharyland Distribution & Transmission Services, L.L.C. ("SDTS"), Sharyland Utilities, L.P. ("Sharyland"), and Sempra Energy ("Sempra") (collectively, "Joint Applicants") filed a Joint Report and Application for Regulatory Approvals ("Joint Application") with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUC" or "Commission"), copies of which are kept at Oncor's office at 1616 Woodall Rodgers Freeway, Suite 6000, Dallas, TX 75202. The Joint Application requests Commission approval of three transactions (the "Proposed Transactions"), as described below, that will result in SDTS becoming an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Oncor that will own transmission and distribution assets held today by Sharyland and SDTS in central, north, and west Texas, and Sharyland will remain a utility in south Texas, with Sempra owning a 50 percent indirect interest in Sharyland. First, Sharyland will transfer its assets in north Texas, along with associated assets, liabilities, and working capital, to SDTS. In return, Sharyland will receive all of SDTS's assets located in south Texas. In connection with this asset exchange, Sharyland's equity interest in SDTS will be cancelled, and the certificates of convenience and necessity of Sharyland and SDTS will be amended to authorize the "North Texas Utility" (referring to the post-closing assets to be owned by SDTS) and the "South Texas Utility" (referring to the post-closing assets to be owned by Sharyland) to own, operate, and maintain their respective post-exchange assets. Second, Oncor will acquire InfraREIT, Inc. ("InfraREIT") and InfraREIT Partners, LP and, as a result, will own and operate all of SDTS's post-transaction assets. Finally, Sempra will purchase a 50-percent indirect limited partnership interest in a newly formed Delaware limited partnership expected to be named Sharyland Holdings, L.P., which will own a 100-percent interest in Sharyland. The Joint Applicants also request Commission approval of certain regulatory terms listed in Exhibit A to the Joint Application, some of which are regulatory conditions to closing.

The Joint Application does not seek Commission approval of a modification to Oncor's rates. Oncor is requesting a Commission finding, however, that Oncor may consolidate the North Texas Utility's wholesale transmission rates with Oncor's rates as part of Oncor's next base-rate case. Oncor also requests Commission approval to establish a regulatory asset to track any make-whole payments or other expenses that may be required to extinguish, transfer, or restructure the debt of InfraREIT and its subsidiaries under the Proposed Transactions, so that Oncor may seek recovery of that regulatory asset in its next base-rate case. The Joint Applicants also seek Commission approval to split the current Sharyland wholesale transmission service tariff into two separate tariffs—one for the North Texas Utility and one for the South Texas Utility—which rates, when taken together, would be equal to Sharyland's rate in effect at the time the Proposed Transactions close.

Any person wishing to intervene in this proceeding must file a written request with the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 North Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326, no later than January 4, 2019. This case has been assigned PUCT Docket No. 48929. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7136 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

**ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC, SHARYLAND DISTRIBUTION & TRANSMISSION SERVICES, L.L.C., SHARYLAND UTILITIES, L.P., AND SEMPRA ENERGY**

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